Big Spirits Comics Special

ピンポン③

Ping Pong

松本大洋

Matsumoto Taiyou

Book Design◎Takahashi Junzi

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小学館

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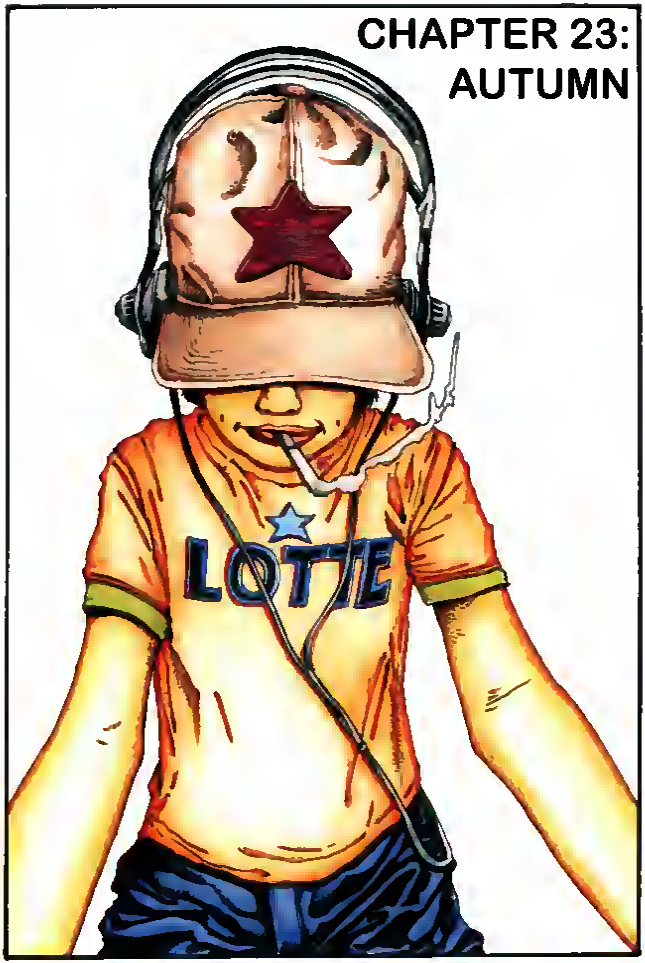
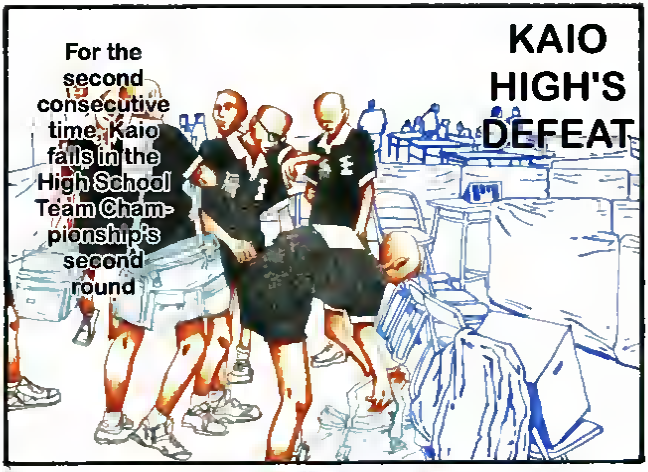
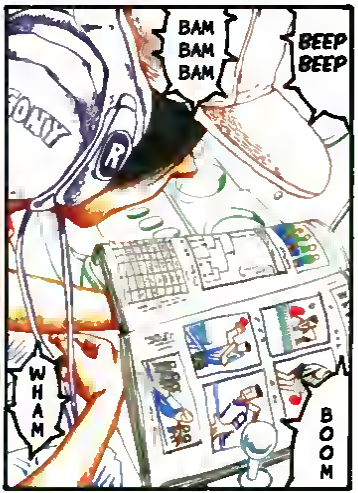
CONTENTS

[CHAPTER 23] AUTUMN 3
[CHAPTER 24] DISSONANCE 23
[CHAPTER 25] WINTER'S COMING 41
[CHAPTER 26] THE DEFEATED'S BLUES 59
[CHAPTER 27] SMILE THE ROBOT 77
[CHAPTER 28] A WISH UPON A STAR 95
[CHAPTER 29] STRUGGLE ON, YOUTH! 113
[CHAPTER 30] THE TRIAL TO BECOME A HERO #1 131
[CHAPTER 31] QUESTION 1: THE PURSUIT OF TSUKIMOTO 149
[CHAPTER 32] MY COACH 167
[CHAPTER 33] A WISH UPON A STAR, CONT'D 185


CHAPTER 23:
AUTUMN
LOTTE


KAIO HIGH'S DEFEAT
For the second consecutive time, Kaio fails in the High School Team Championship's second round

RYUICHI KAZAMA
Men's Singles Winner
海王

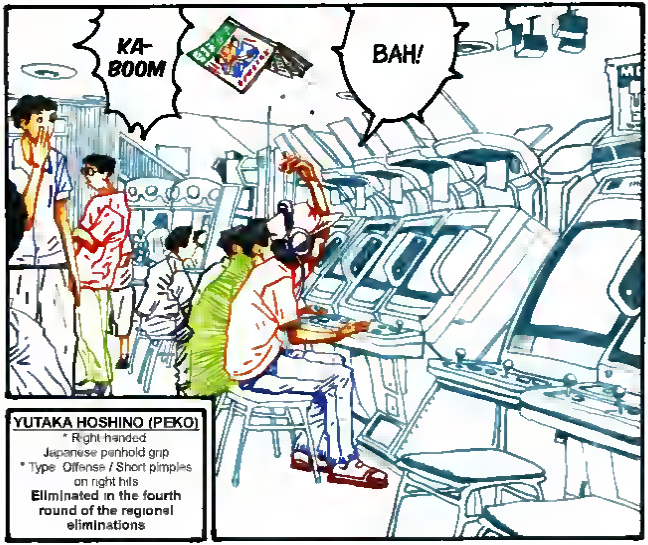

BAM BAM BAM
BEEP BEEP
WHAM
BOOM

ory in singles, but
ce that our team's
l is dropping. To
rn Kaio to its
ner solidarity, we
ld need fresh talent
Tsukimoto from
se High.

I need fresh
Tsukimoto
e High.

KAZAMA KAIO'S NEW LEADER

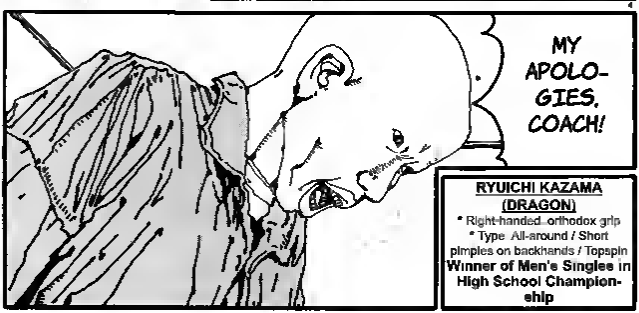
▶ I'm glad about my victory in singles, but I notice that our team's level is dropping. To return Kaio to its former solidarity, we would need fresh talent like Tsukimoto from Katase High.



YUTAKA HOSHINO (PEKO)

* Right handed
Japanese penhold grip
* Type: Offense / Short pimples on right hils
Eliminated in the fourth round of the regional eliminations

1
3
2

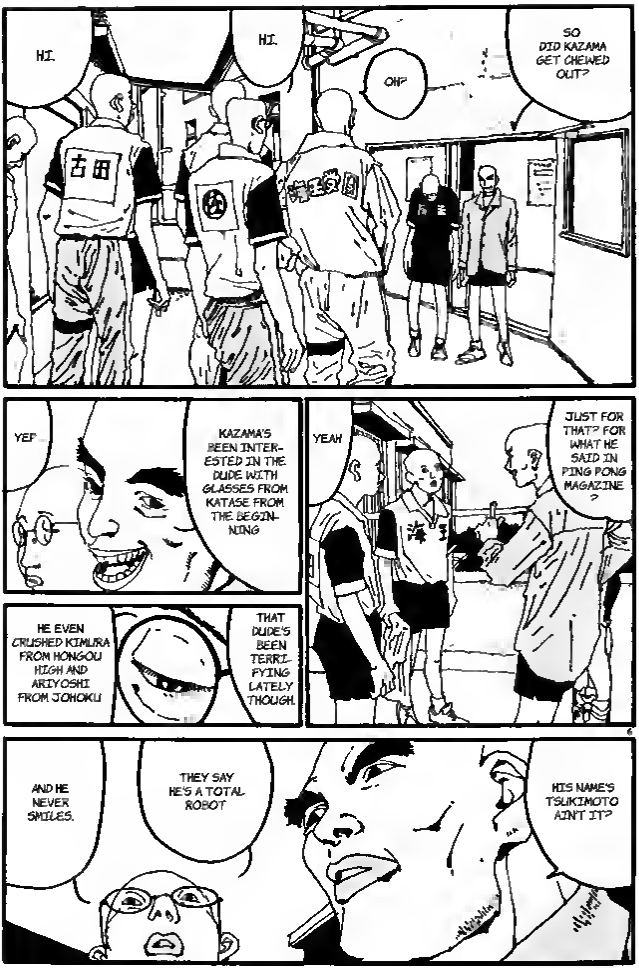


RYUICHI KAZAMA (DRAGON)

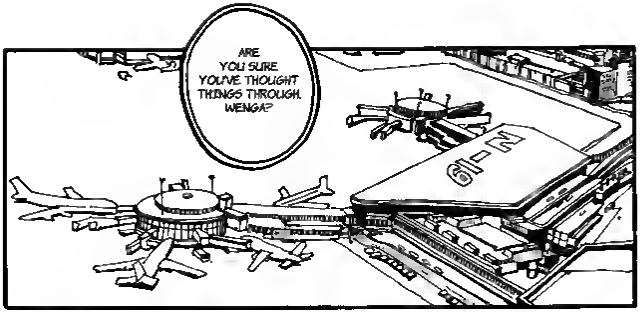
* Right-handed, orthodox grip
* Type: All-around / Short pimples on backhands / Topspin

Winner of Men's Singles in High School Championship

I UNDERSTAND YOUR IRRITATION AFTER THE TEAM'S LAMENTABLE FAILURE...
BUT THINK OF THE OTHERS! THEY STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN OVER IT
YES, COACH!
FROM NOW ON, PAY SOME ATTENTION TO WHAT YOU SAY!
YOU ARE DISMISSED
YES, COACH! I'LL GO NOW!
HMM...


HI.
HI.
OH?
SO DID KAZAMA GET CHEWED OUT?
YEP
KAZAMA'S BEEN INTERESTED IN THE DUDE WITH GLASSES FROM KATASE FROM THE BEGINNING
YEAH
JUST FOR THAT? FOR WHAT HE SAID IN PING PONG MAGAZINE?
HE EVEN CRUSHED KIMURA FROM HONGOU HIGH AND ARIYOSHI FROM JOHOKU
THAT DUDE'S BEEN TERRIFYING LATELY THOUGH.
AND HE NEVER SMILES.
THEY SAY HE'S A TOTAL ROBOT
HIS NAME'S TSUKIMOTO AIN'T IT?

SURE LOOKS LIKE IT.
IS HE REALLY INTENT ON HAVING THAT DUDE WITH GLASSES JOIN US?
THERE'S NO WAY IT'S JUST BULL.
ANYHOW, IF KAZAMA SAYS SO
MANABU SAKUMA (DEMON)
*Right-handed, Japanese penhold grip
*Type: Offense / Short pimples on right hits
Fourth place in regional eliminations of the High School Championship

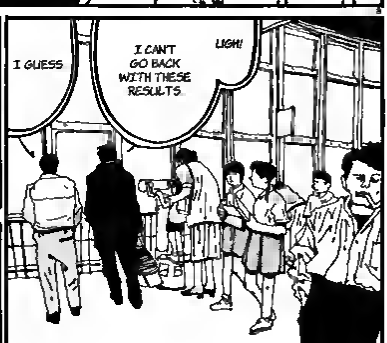


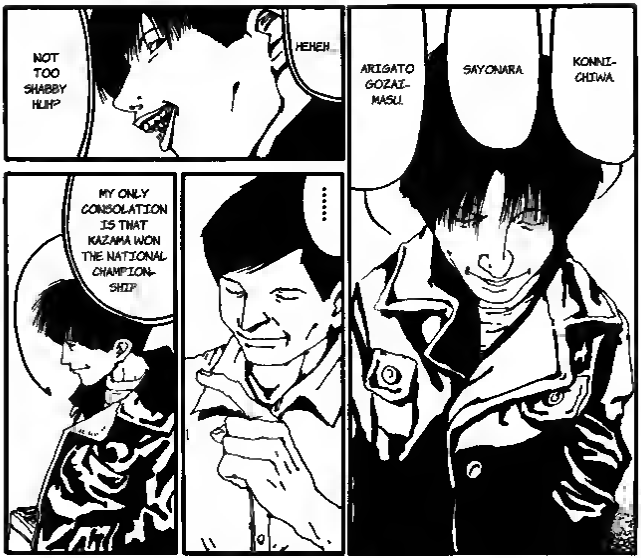
WENGA KON

*Right-handed Chinese penhold grip

*Type Offense Topspin / Short pimples on backhand

Defeated in the fourth round of the regional eliminations

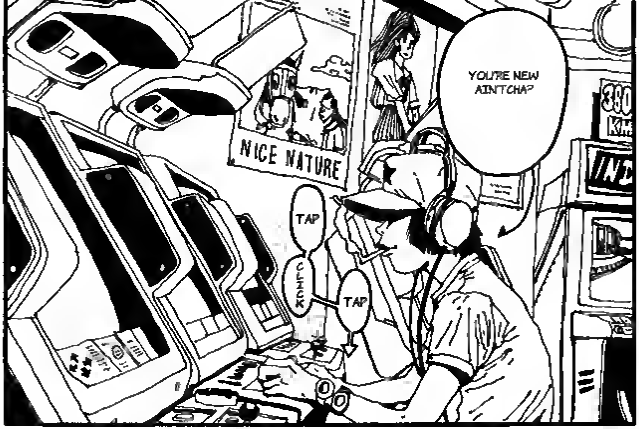



KONNI-CHIWA
SAYONARA
ARIGATO GOZAI-MASU
HEHEH
NOT TOO SHABBY HUH?
.....
MY ONLY CONSOLATION IS THAT KAZAMA WON THE NATIONAL CHAMPION-SHIP

9

HAHA
IF HE HAD LOST IN THE FIRST ROUND I WOULD HAVE BEGGED A WITCH TO TURN ME INTO A FROG

SAME HERE...
I'LL MISS YOU WENGA.

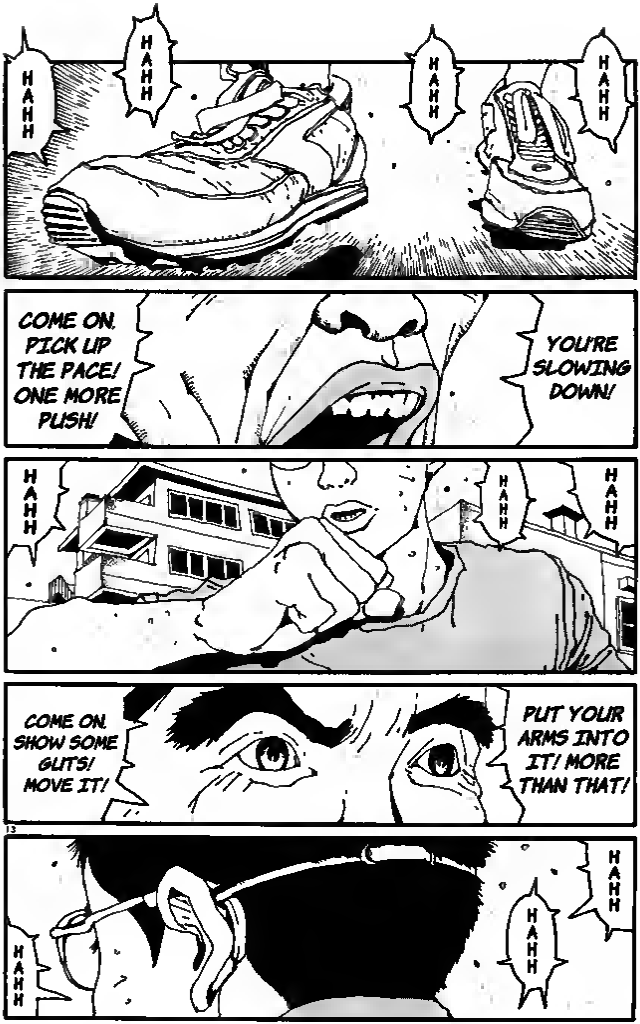

YOU'RE NEW AIN'T CHA?
NICE NATURE
TAP
CLICK
TAP

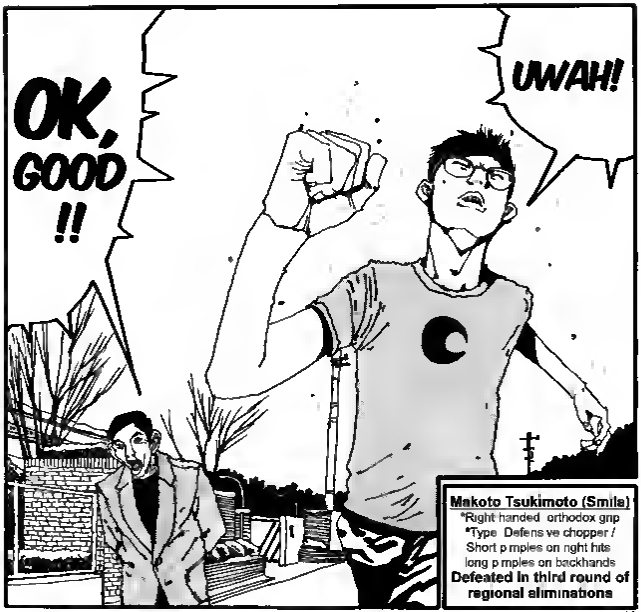
I ONLY PLAY WITH PEOPLE WHO BET
NOT A PROBLEM.
I'M SURE I CAN BEAT YOU
I ROCK THOUGH

11

I'M UNDEFEATABLE IN REFLEX GAMES
YOU WANT TO PLAY FOR CASH?

BUT IF I BEAT YOU IN THIS MATCH, YOU GOTTA ADD "MISTER" IN FRONT
YOU CAN CALL ME THAT TOO
THEY CALL ME POCO IT'S MY NICKNAME AROUND HERE.
'KAY ?
MR. POCO?
...YOU'LL CALL ME "MR. POCO"


HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
COME ON. PICK UP THE PACE! ONE MORE PUSH!
YOU'RE SLOWING DOWN!
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
COME ON. SHOW SOME GUTS! MOVE IT!
PUT YOUR ARMS INTO IT! MORE THAN THAT!
13
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH

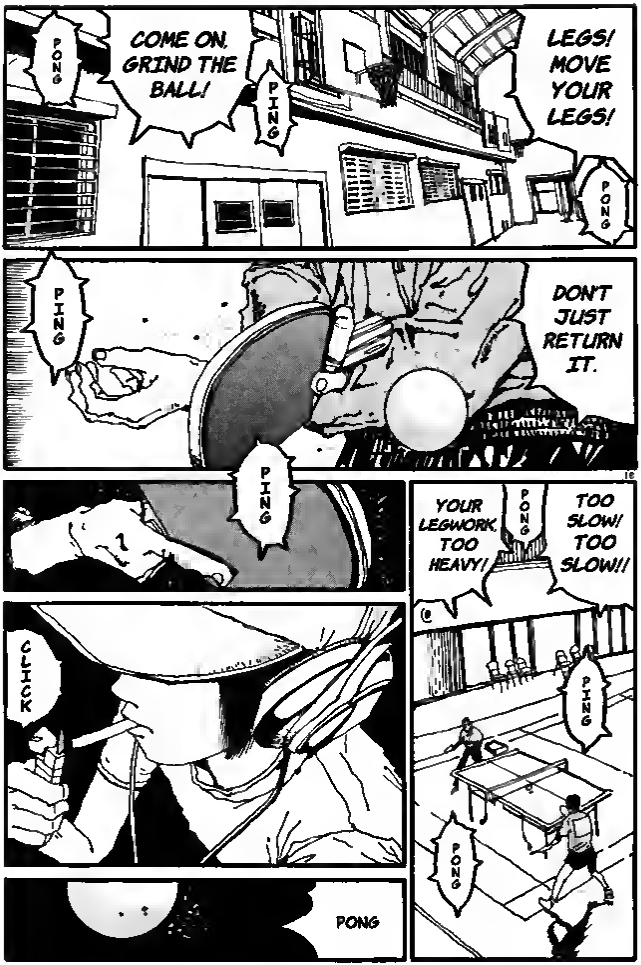

OK, GOOD !!
UWAH!
Makoto Tsukimoto (Smile)
*Right handed orthodox grip
*Type Defens ve chopper / Short p mples on right hits long p mples on backhands
Defeated in third round of regional alimination
14

HMP
DON'T STOP RIGHT AWAY! WALK A LITTLE!

YESSIR
Hey, Captain Ota YOU GUYS LEAVING?
JAM
Thanks!
NO
ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?
WE'RE DONE...
Goodbye!
SEE YOU TOMORROW THEN!
UGH.
PISSES ME OFF

YOUR FRIEND WITH THE BOWL CUT SKIPPED CLASS AGAIN TODAY
.....
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
16
HYAAAHA! YOU CHALLENGED ME THREE DECADES TOO SOON!
カ
ア
ア
SEGA RALLY
RACE 1P VER
RACE VER.
R&D WO

ALRIGHT
YES YOU'RE RIGHT
HMMMM...
IF NOT WE'RE GONNA CATCH A COLD
LET'S GO BACK IN!
LET'S BEGIN THE HUNDRED-BALL EXERCISE.
OK.
17
CREDIT
821
KYAAHOHO!!

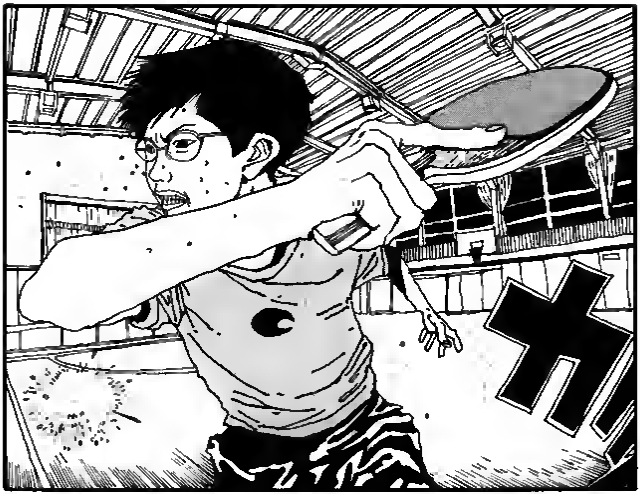

PONG
COME ON, GRIND THE BALL!
PING
LEGS! MOVE YOUR LEGS!
PONG
PING
DON'T JUST RETURN IT.
PING
PING
YOUR LEGWORK, TOO HEAVY!
PONG
TOO SLOW! TOO SLOW!!
PING
PONG
CLICK
PONG

-COMPREHENSION NOTES-

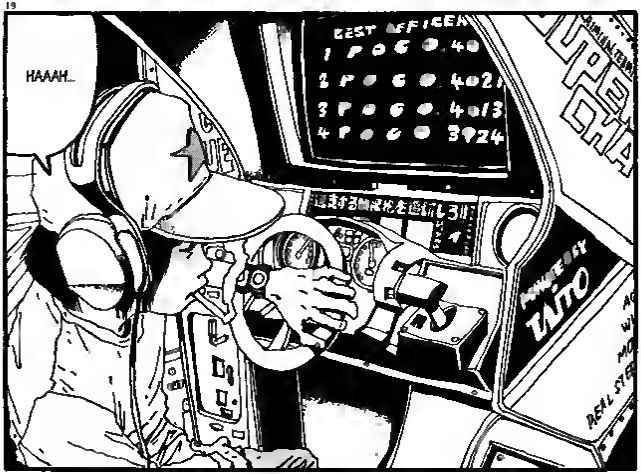
ON PEKO'S NICKNAME

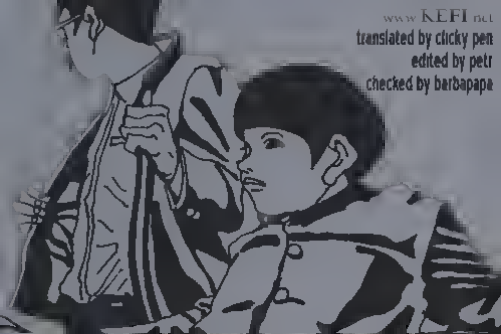
Hoshino gets his nickname from the Japanese confectionery company Fujiya's mascot, a little girl perpetually licking her lips named Peko, as seen here:

So, being the candy aficionado that he is, Hoshino was dubbed Peko.
However, as of this chapter, he also takes on a new name, Poco;
the joke being that Poco is a secondary, less-popular mascot of Fujiya Co.
often shown with Peko, as seen here:



19

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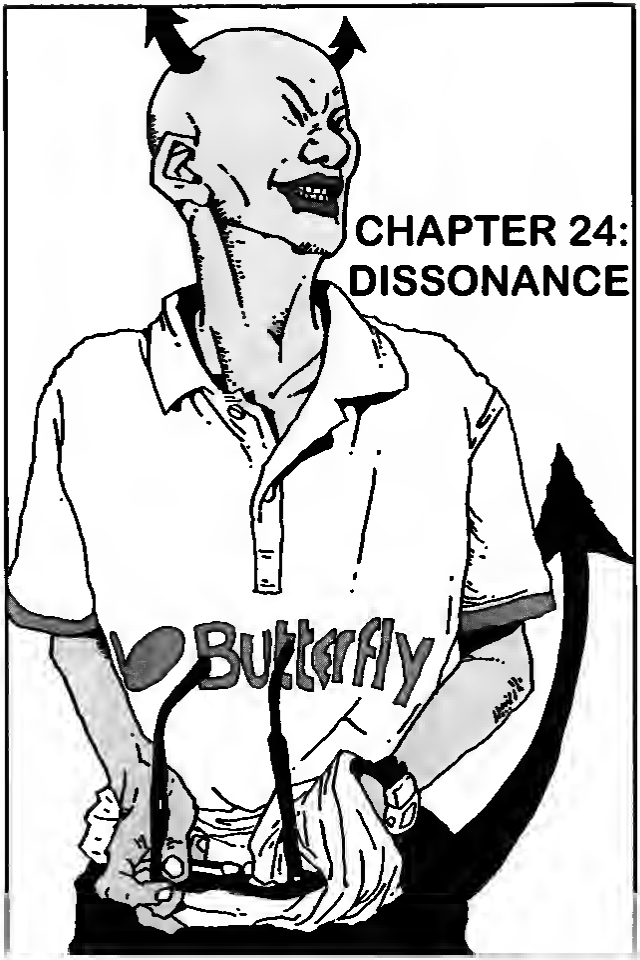
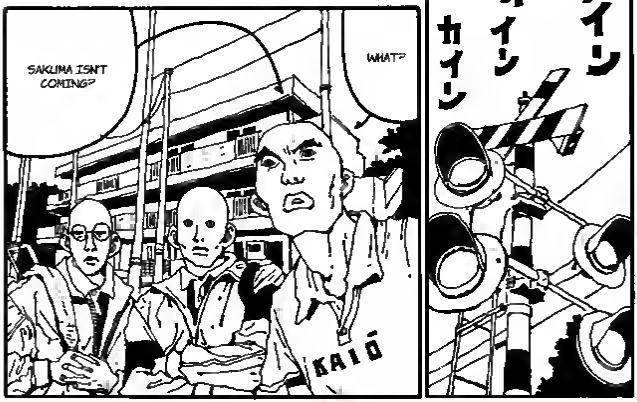
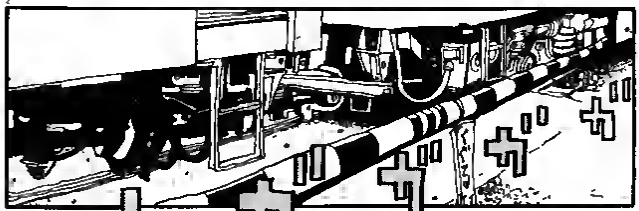
translated by chicky pen
edited by petr
checked by barbapapa


CHAPTER 24:
DISSONANCE
Butterfly


SAKUMA ISN'T COMING?
WHAT?
KAIŌ
カイン
カイン
カイン

HE HAS THE FLU AND IS RESTING IN THE BOARDING HOUSE.
AFFIRMA-TIVE!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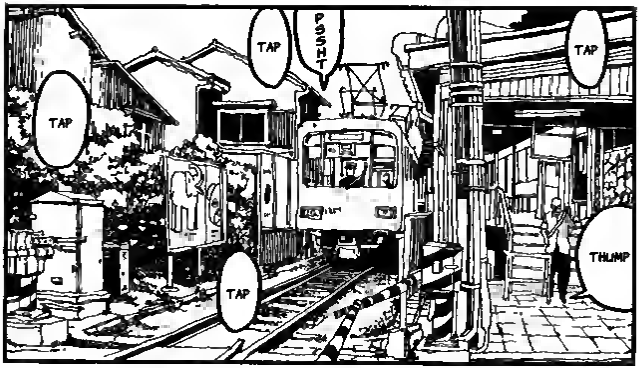
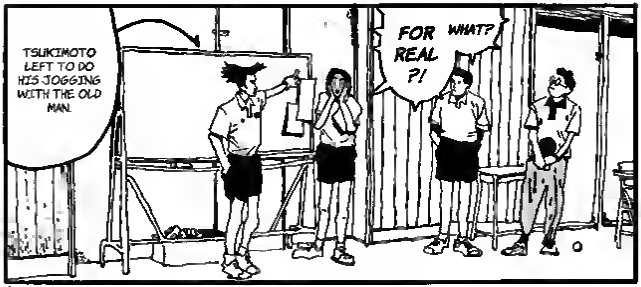

TAP
PSSHT
TAP
TAP
TAP
THUMP

I SEE...
SAKUMA? ABSENT FOR A LITTLE FLU?

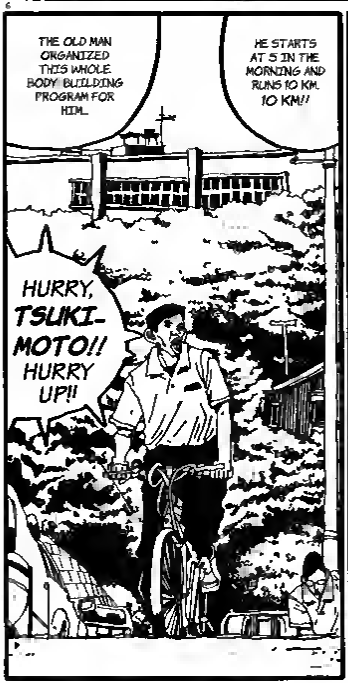
YES!
ALRIGHT GO AHEAD!
カン…

HMPH.
DEVIL MAN
THAT'S MY PERSONAL OPINION, ANYWAY
I'M MORE OF A KOIKEYA MAN, MYSELF...

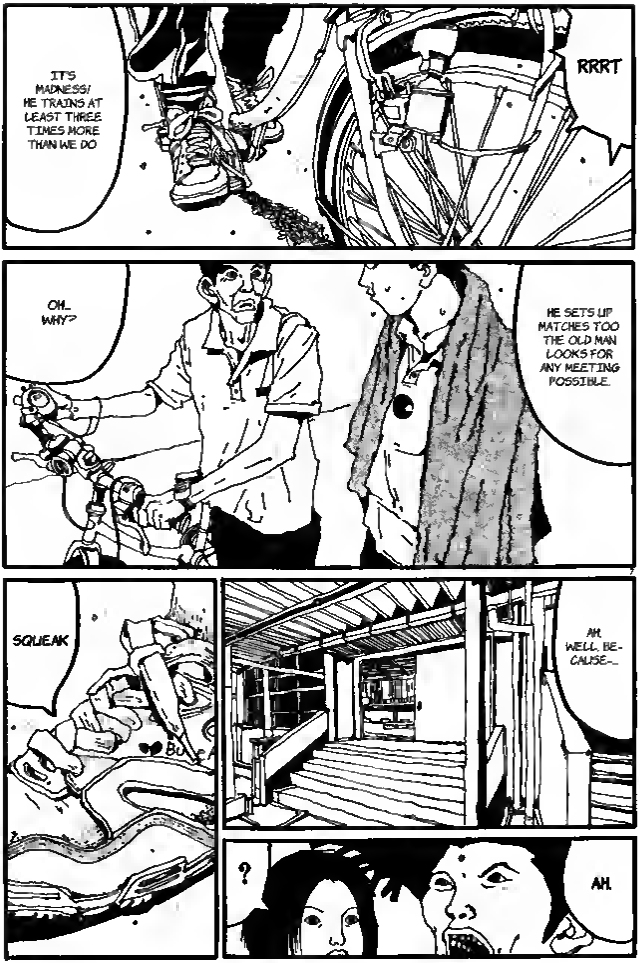
THEY MADE QUITE THE COMEBACK THANKS TO THAT VERY TRENDY RETRO BAG OF THEIRS
ACTUALLY I AM A HUGE FAN OF KARAMUCHO
BUT HOSHINO YOU DROPPED OUT OF THE CLUB, DIDN'T YOU?
VERY REFINED LIKE SEIKA'S
THEIR TV COMMERCIALS ARE SO GREAT
.....
5
HAVE YOU PUT ON WEIGHT?
SMILE ISN'T HERE?


TSUKIMOTO LEFT TO DO HIS JOGGING WITH THE OLD MAN.
FOR REAL?!
WHAT?

6

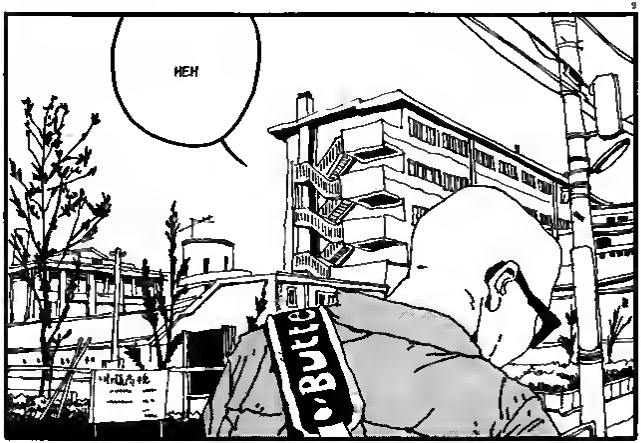

THE OLD MAN ORGANIZED THIS WHOLE BODY BUILDING PROGRAM FOR HIM..
HE STARTS AT 5 IN THE MORNING AND RUNS 10 KM. 10 KM!!
HURRY, TSUKI-MOTO!! HURRY UP!!

IT'S NOT LIKE HIS TRAINING HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH OURS ANYWAY
I PUT ON WEIGHT?


IT'S MADNESS! HE TRAINS AT LEAST THREE TIMES MORE THAN WE DO
RRRT
OH... WHY?
HE SETS UP MATCHES TOO THE OLD MAN LOOKS FOR ANY MEETING POSSIBLE.
SQUEAK
AH. WELL. BE-CAUSE...
?
AH.

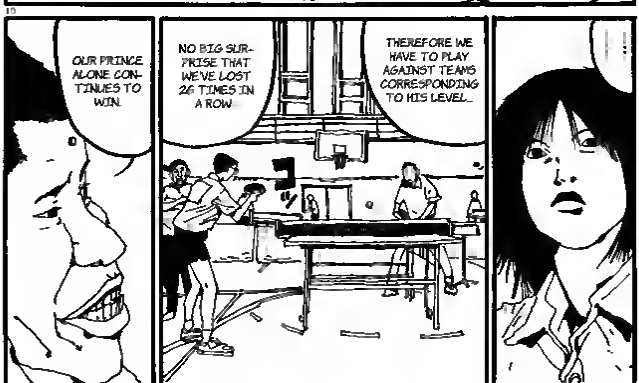
Hello, everybody!
IS EVERYONE HERE?
!!
WASSUP!
HAVE YOU PUT ON WEIGHT?

AND SMOKING TOO?
THAT'S MY POLICY
WHAT WITH THE JUNK YOU EAT AND ALL.
NO WAY THAT'S GOTTA BE YOUR NEW GLASSES' FAULT
WHAT-EVER. DO AS YOU'D LIKE...
SNIFF SNIFF
WHA?

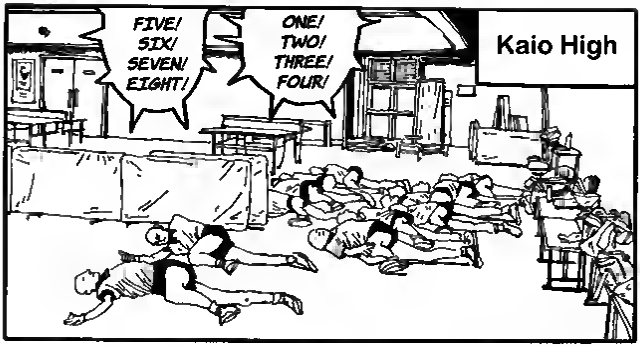

HEH
OBUTTS

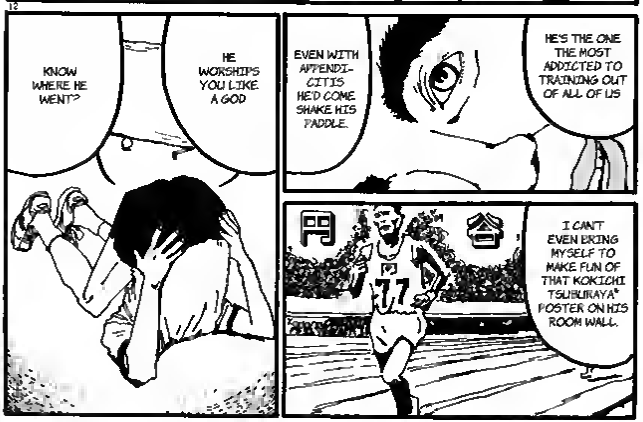
HMP
HE LOOKS DOWN ON ALL OF US HEHEH...

SINCE WE DON'T HAVE THE SKILL LEVEL TO TRAIN HIM, THE TEAM PLAYS A LOT OF OTHER SCHOOLS.


OUR PRINCE ALONE CONTINUES TO WIN.
NO BIG SURPRISE THAT WE'VE LOST 26 TIMES IN A ROW.
THEREFORE WE HAVE TO PLAY AGAINST TEAMS CORRESPONDING TO HIS LEVEL...

カッ
HE'S THE ONLY PLAYER WHO COUNTS THE OTHERS ARE JUST BALLBOYS.
THERE'S NO LONGER ANY TEAM HERE.
ゴッ
.....
PING
IM SICK OF THIS FREAK SHOW!
PING
PING
PONG
PONG



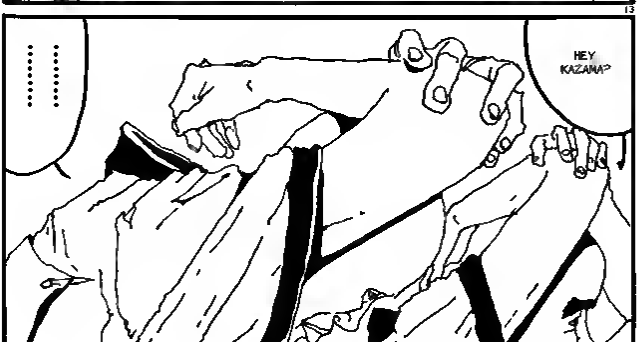

KNOW WHERE HE WENT?
HE WORSHIPS YOU LIKE A GOD
EVEN WITH APPENDI-CITIS HED COME SHAKE HIS PADDLE.
HE'S THE ONE THE MOST ADDICTED TO TRAINING OUT OF ALL OF US
I CAN'T EVEN BRING MYSELF TO MAKE FUN OF THAT KOKICHI TSUBURAYA* POSTER ON HIS ROOM WALL.

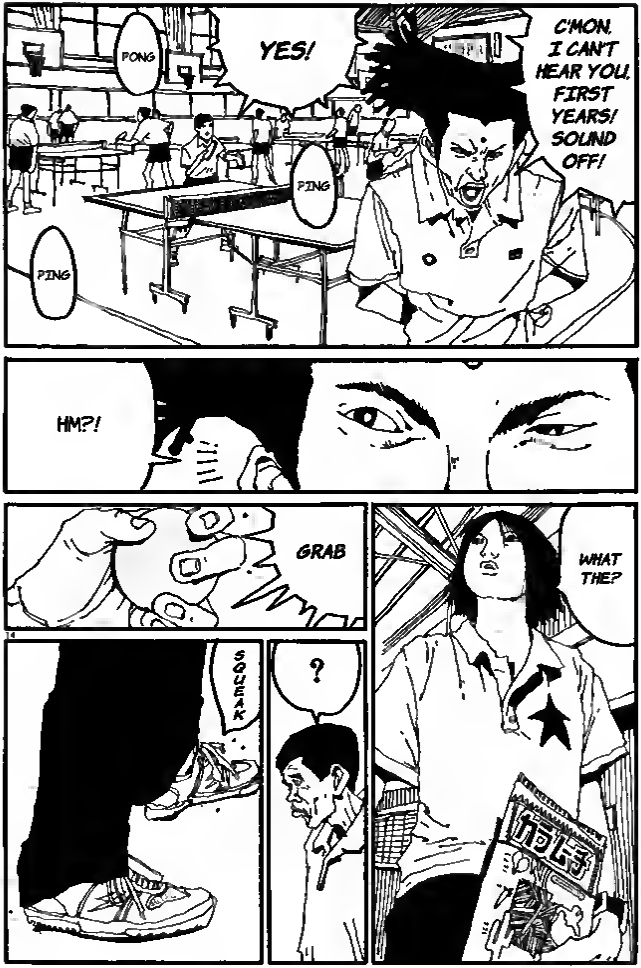
* A Japanese athlete and tragic figure

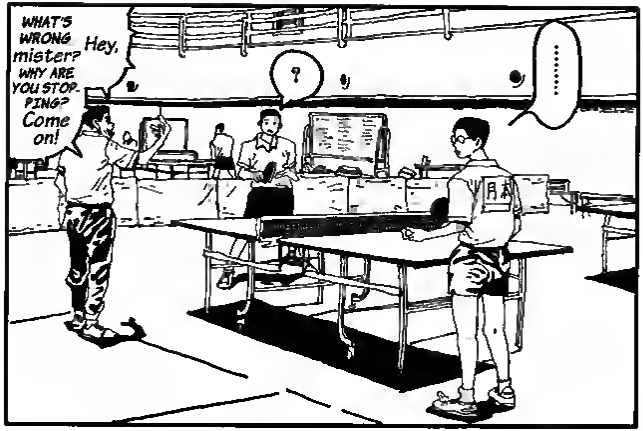
HE KNOWS THIS BUT JUST WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE...?
THE CLUB STRICTLY FORBIDS ANY MATCHES WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE OTHER TEAMS IF HE LOSES HE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE CLUB.

AS IF WE ALL SUCK?
BUT CAN'T YOU SEE THAT YOU'RE DISCOURAGING US BY SINGING HIS PRAISES
YOU'VE GOT EVERY RIGHT TO ADMIRE TSUCHIMOTO THE DEFENSE PLAYER FROM KATASE HIGH...

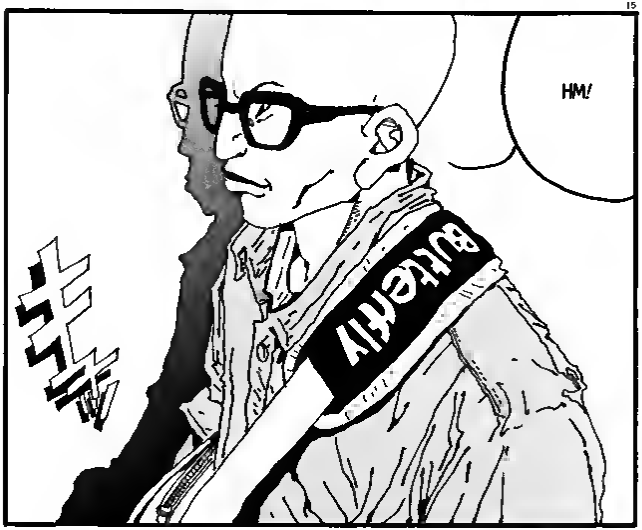
13


.....
HEY KAZAMA?

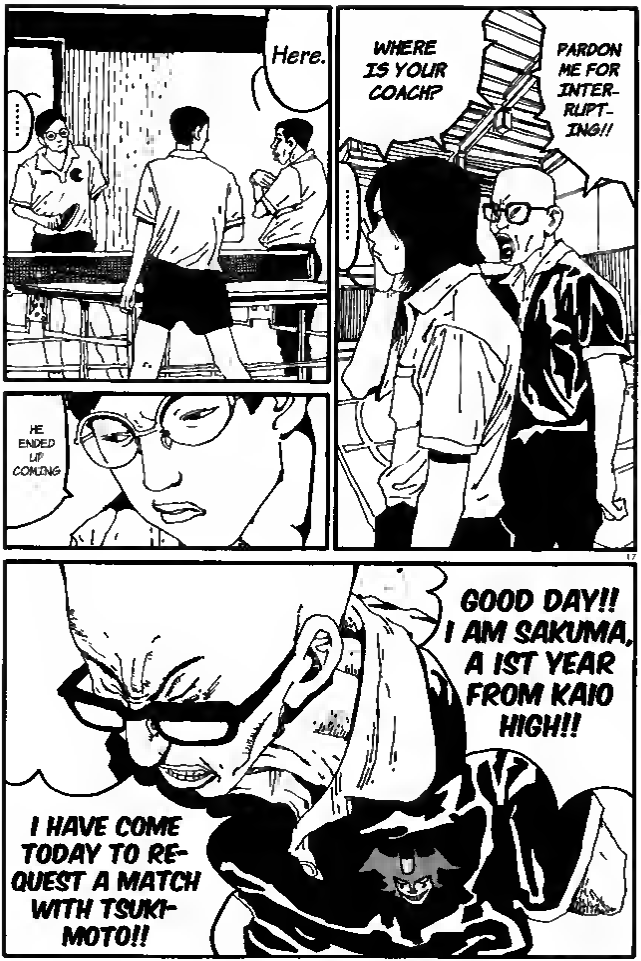

PONG
YES!
C'MON, I CAN'T HEAR YOU. FIRST YEARS! SOUND OFF!
PING
PING
HM?!
GRAB
WHAT THE?
SQUEAK
?


WHAT'S WRONG mister?
Hey,
WHY ARE YOU STOP-PING?
Come on!
?
.....

15

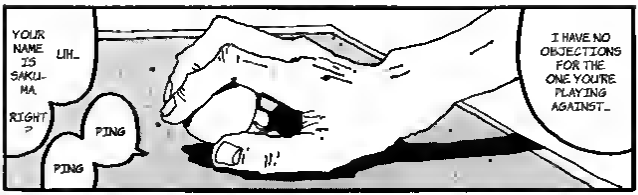

HM!
キュッ
Butterfly

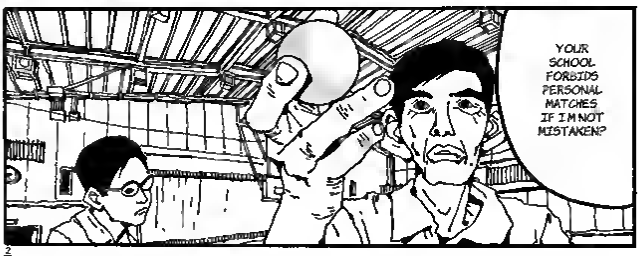
ガチャ
ガチャ
WHAM
Butterfly
NATIONAL TEAM
CLIP
OH?
YOU MISSED YOUR STOP THREE STATIONS AGO!
HAS YOUR VISION GOTTEN THAT BAD?
WHOA THERE, DEMON!
16
HEEHEE...
HAVE YOU PUT ON WEIGHT PEKO?
DIS PLAYSH IDN'T KAHYO HOIGH.


Here.
.....
WHERE IS YOUR COACH?
PARDON ME FOR INTERRUPTING!!
.....
HE ENDED UP COMING
GOOD DAY!! I AM SAKUMA, A 1ST YEAR FROM KAIO HIGH!!
I HAVE COME TODAY TO REQUEST A MATCH WITH TSUKIMOTO!!

AS YOU WISH, DEMON.
VOILA.
BUT YOU'LL LOSE.
YOU SO COOOOOOL.
WHOA WHOA WHOA WHOA
BAH
WHO THE HELL CARES?

CHAPTER 25:
WINTER'S COMING


YOUR NAME IS SAKUMA RIGHT?
UH…
PING
PING
I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS FOR THE ONE YOU'RE PLAYING AGAINST…


YOUR SCHOOL FORBIDS PERSONAL MATCHES IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN?

2

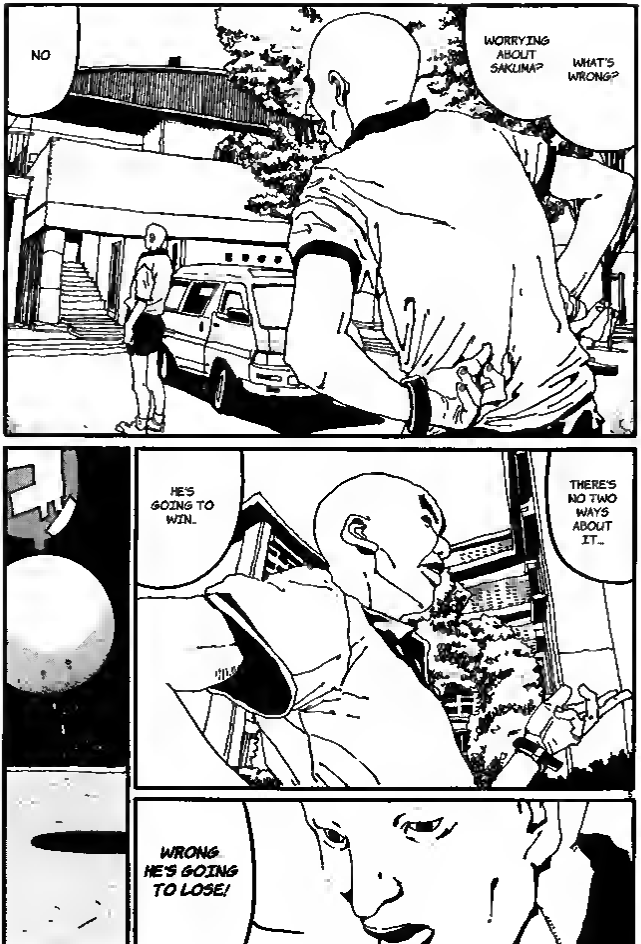
……
HE THINKS HE'S A MEMBER OF THE SHIN-SENGUMI
HAHA… HEAR THAT mister?

HOLY CRAP!
IF I LOSE… I'LL HAVE TO RESIGN FROM THE CLUB
YES

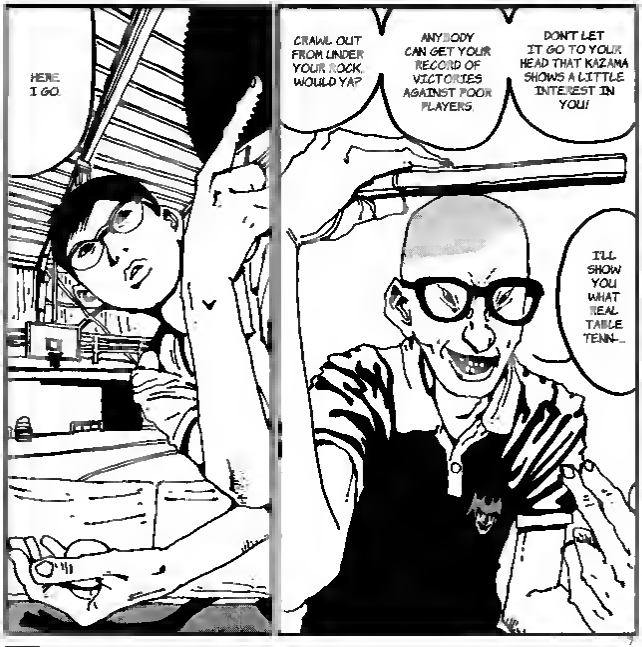
OK MR OKITA SOUJI. WE'LL GIVE YOU A BIT OF TIME.
.....
SO ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS COMMIT HARAKIRI
HAVE YOU GOTTEN PERMIS-SION FROM KONDO ISAMI?
I LEFT WITHOUT EVEN LETTING HIJIKATA TOSHIZO IN ON IT
FWOO
VERY WELL.
KEEP IT UNDER 15 MINUTES SINCE YOU STILL HAVE TO FINISH YOUR TRAINING MR TSUKIMOTO.
3
PER-FECT
キュッ!
HEHEH..

Note: Kondo Isami, Hijikata Toshizo and Okita Souji are all famous members of the Shinsengumi

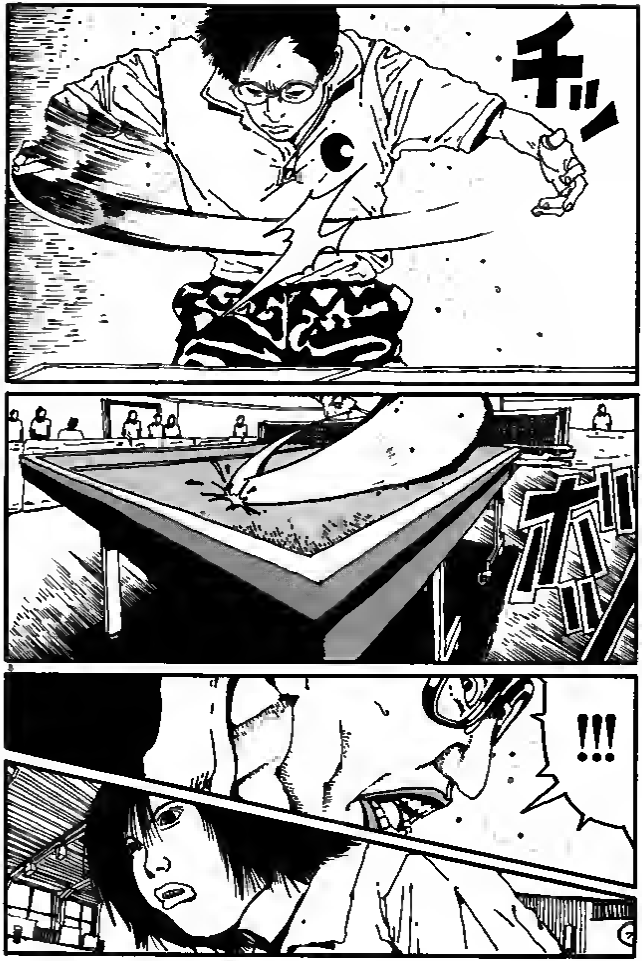
GLUB
WHEW
HEY KAZAMA! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
BREAK-TIME'S ALREADY OVER.
OH?
OK.


NO
WORRYING ABOUT SAKUMA?
WHAT'S WRONG?
HE'S GOING TO WIN.
THERE'S NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT...
WRONG HE'S GOING TO LOSE!

TSUKIMOTO HAS ALREADY PASSED ON TO A LEVEL HIGHER THAN YOUR OWN
WHAT?
READY.
SAKUMA WILL LOSE.
THAT'S ALL FROM WAY BACK...
MY RECORD AGAINST YOU IS 96 WINS AND 37 LOSSES
SWAHAHA
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS SINCE WE'VE LAST PLAYED EACH OTHER
MOON
IS THAT SO?

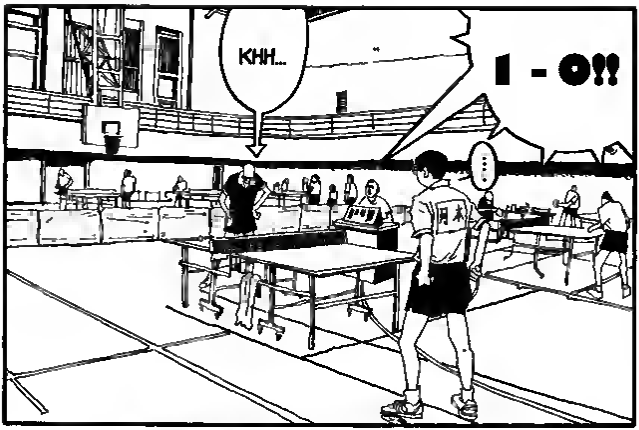

HERE I GO.
CRAWL OUT FROM UNDER YOUR ROCK, WOULD YA?
ANYBODY CAN GET YOUR RECORD OF VICTORIES AGAINST POOR PLAYERS.
DON'T LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD THAT KAZAMA SHOWS A LITTLE INTEREST IN YOU!
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT REAL TABLE TENN--

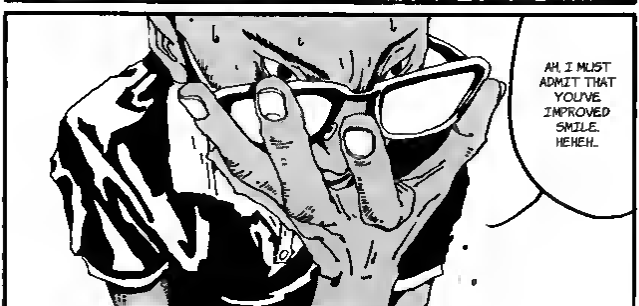
* Sweet olive is a fragrant shrub found in Japan which blooms in autumn


チッ
ボン
!!!

GHH!!
SHH

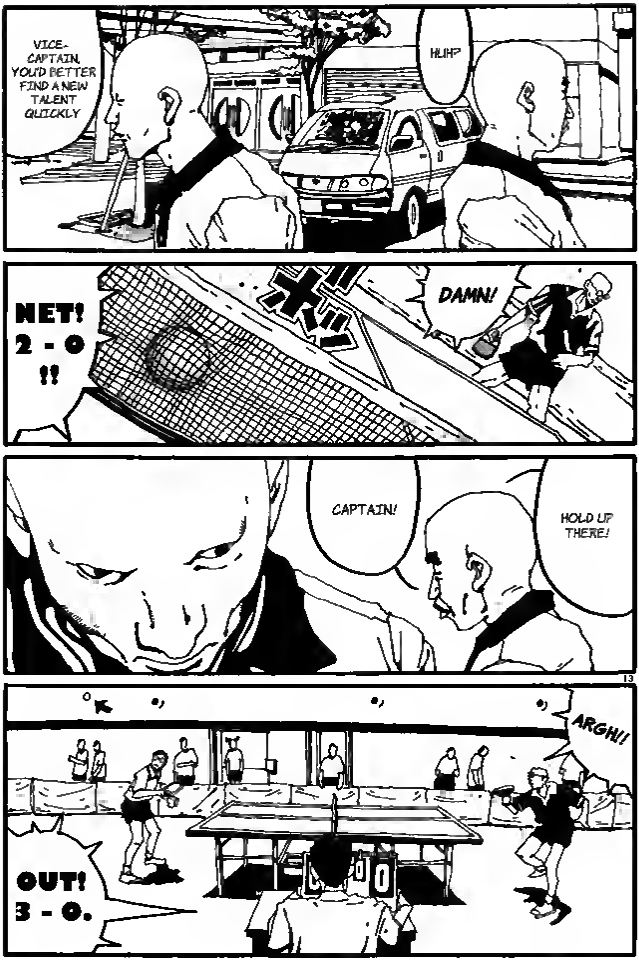
FFHH
AH!
ARGH!
SQUEAK
JOYLITE
065
TAP
TCHIK
PONG
PONG
PONG
PONG

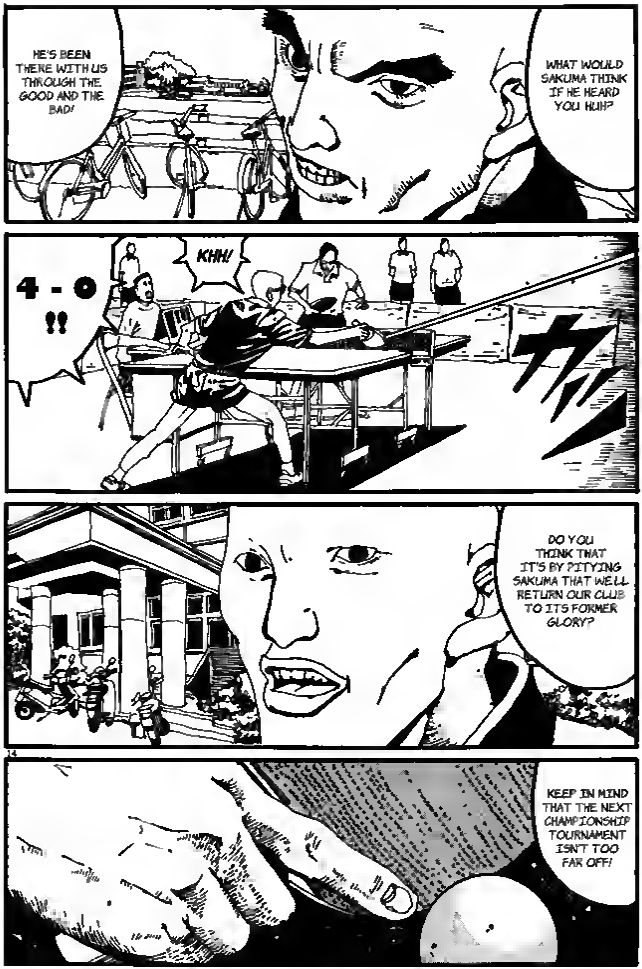

KHH...
1 - 0!!

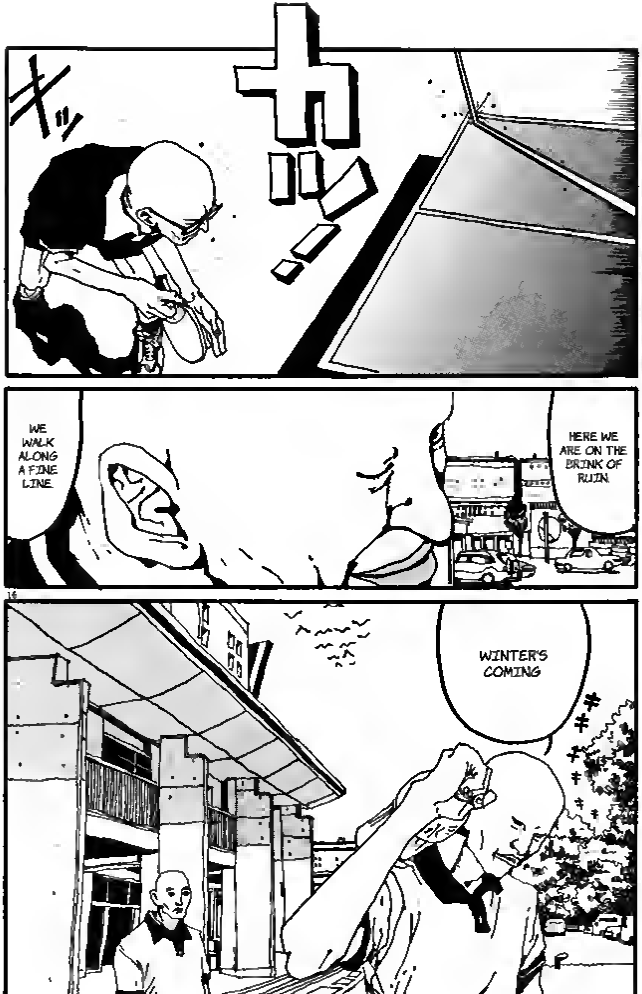

AH, I MUST ADMIT THAT YOU'VE IMPROVED SMILE. HEHEH.

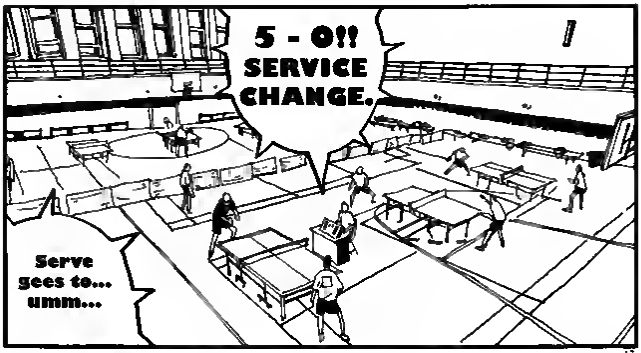
YOU CAN TELL HE'S FROM KAIO
HE RETURNED THE BALL THREE TIMES AGAINST TSUKIMOTO
HE'S DOING WELL.
.....

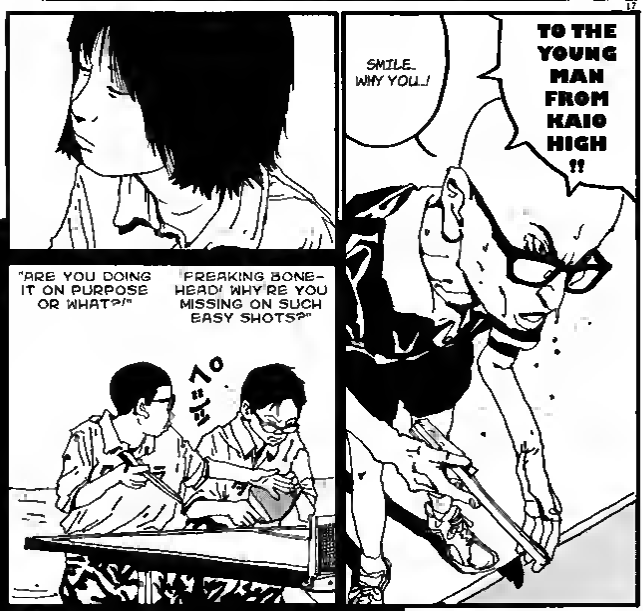
ALRIGHT! WE'RE COMING!
SENPAIS, IF YOU DON'T MIND!
大野
キャッ
FFH
ANYWAY WE'LL HAVE TO CONSIDER THE REPLACEMENT FOR WHEN SAKUMA RESIGNS


VICE-CAPTAIN, YOU'D BETTER FIND A NEW TALENT QUICKLY
HUH?
NET! 2 - 0 !!
DAMN!
CAPTAIN!
HOLD UP THERE!
ARGH!
OUT! 3 - 0.

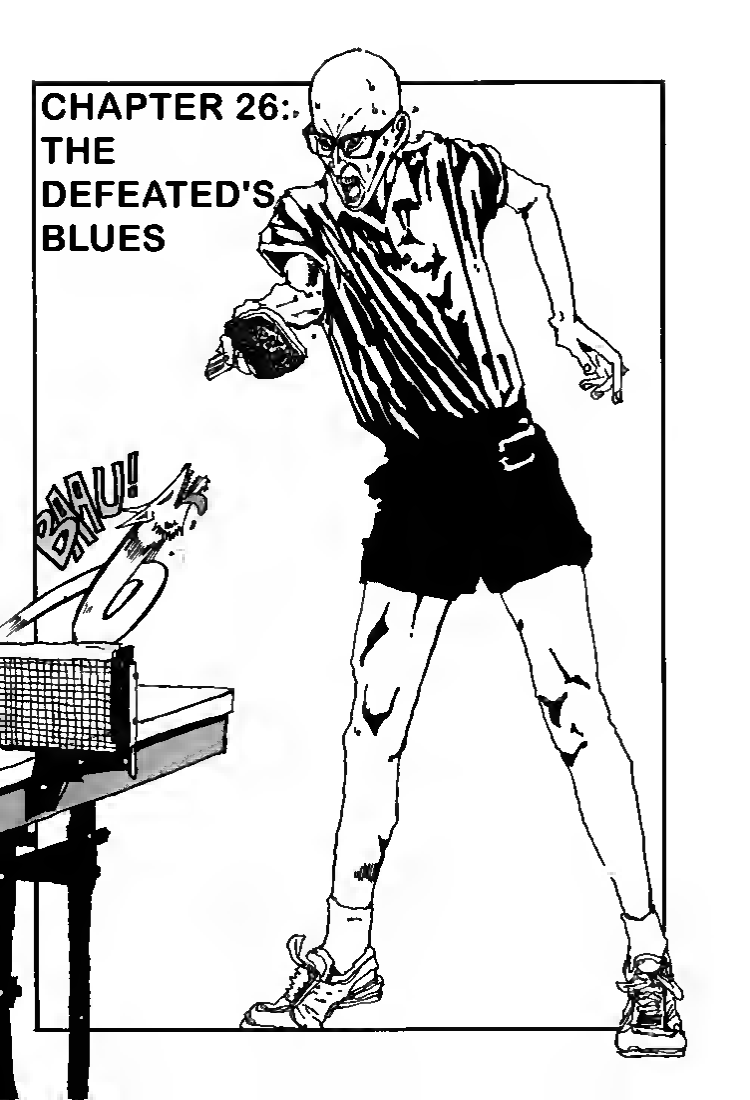

HE'S BEEN THERE WITH US THROUGH THE GOOD AND THE BAD!
WHAT WOULD SAKUMA THINK IF HE HEARD YOU HUH?
4 - 0 !!
KHH!
DO YOU THINK THAT IT'S BY PITYING SAKUMA THAT WE'LL RETURN OUR CLUB TO ITS FORMER GLORY?
KEEP IN MIND THAT THE NEXT CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT ISN'T TOO FAR OFF!

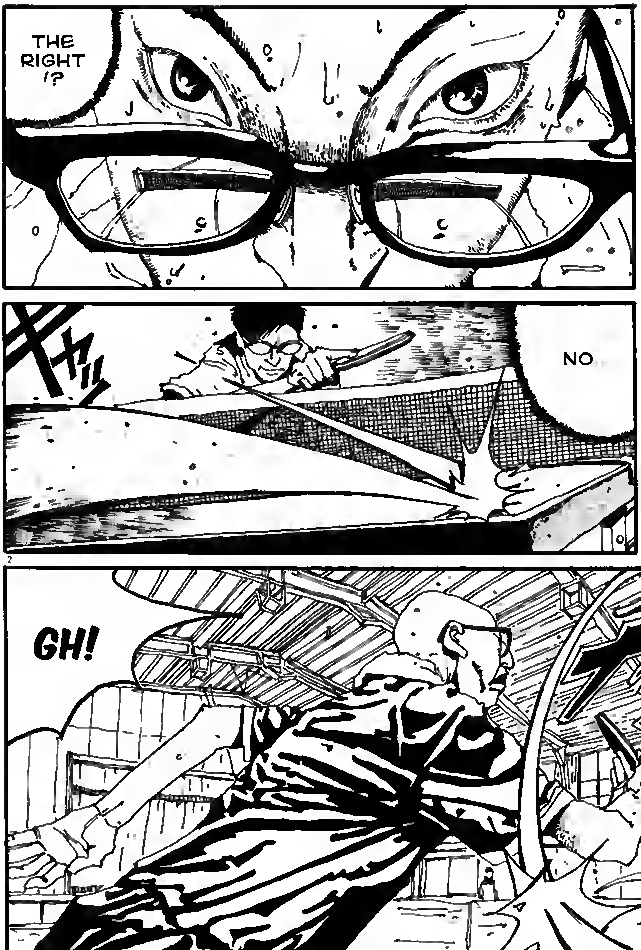

WE WALK ALONG A FINE LINE.
HERE WE ARE ON THE BRINK OF RUIN.
WINTER'S COMING


5 - 0!! SERVICE CHANGE.
Serve goes to... umm...

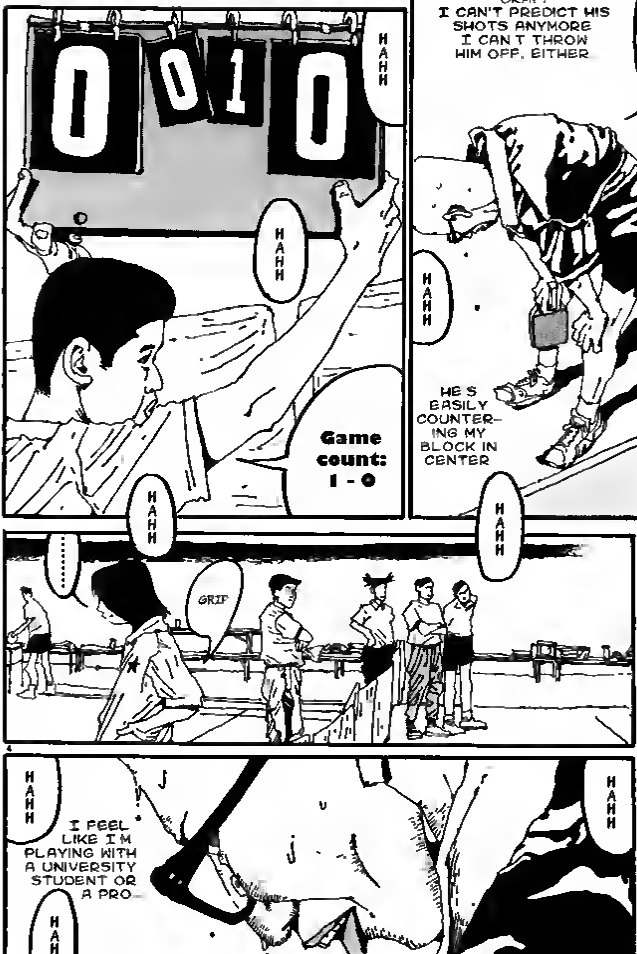

TO THE YOUNG MAN FROM KAIO HIGH !!
SMILE. WHY YOU..!
"ARE YOU DOING IT ON PURPOSE OR WHAT?!"
"FREAKING BONE-HEAD! WHY'RE YOU MISSING ON SUCH EASY SHOTS?"
ピキ

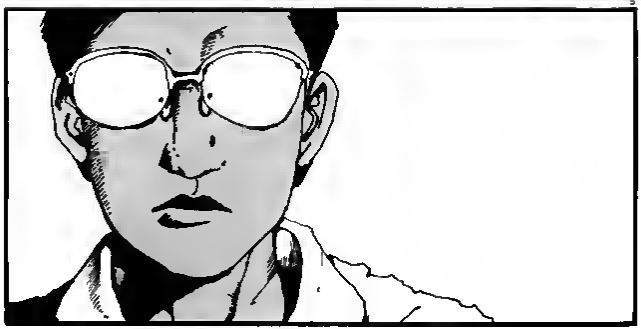
HE PLAYS LIKE CRAP...
BUT PEKO
CUT IT OUT, DEMON! DON'T HIT SMILE, OR ELSE!
HE'LL NEVER GET ANY BETTER
キュッ

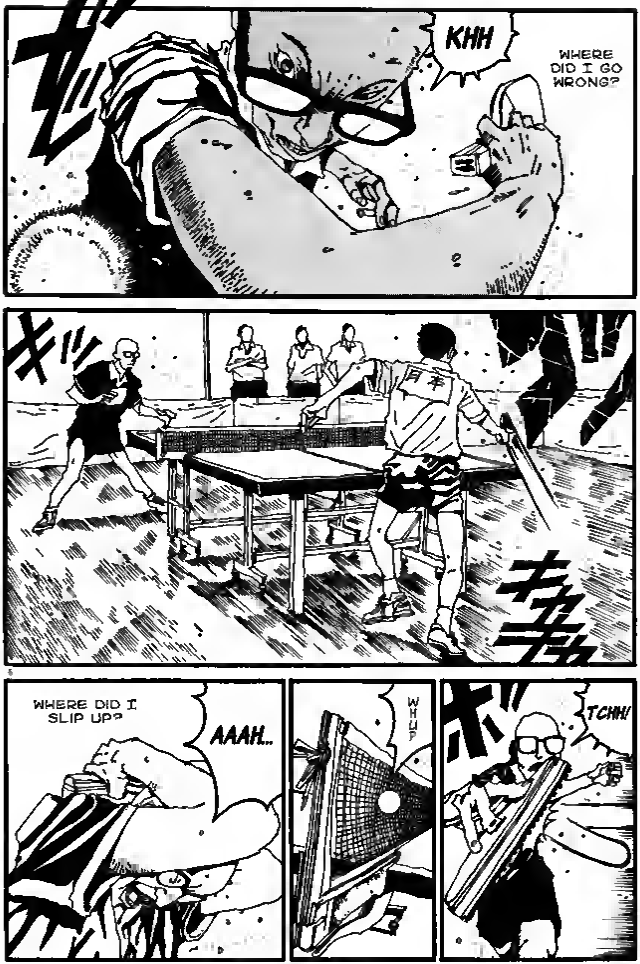

CHAPTER 26:
THE
DEFEATED'S
BLUES
BAKU!


THE RIGHT !?
NO
GH!

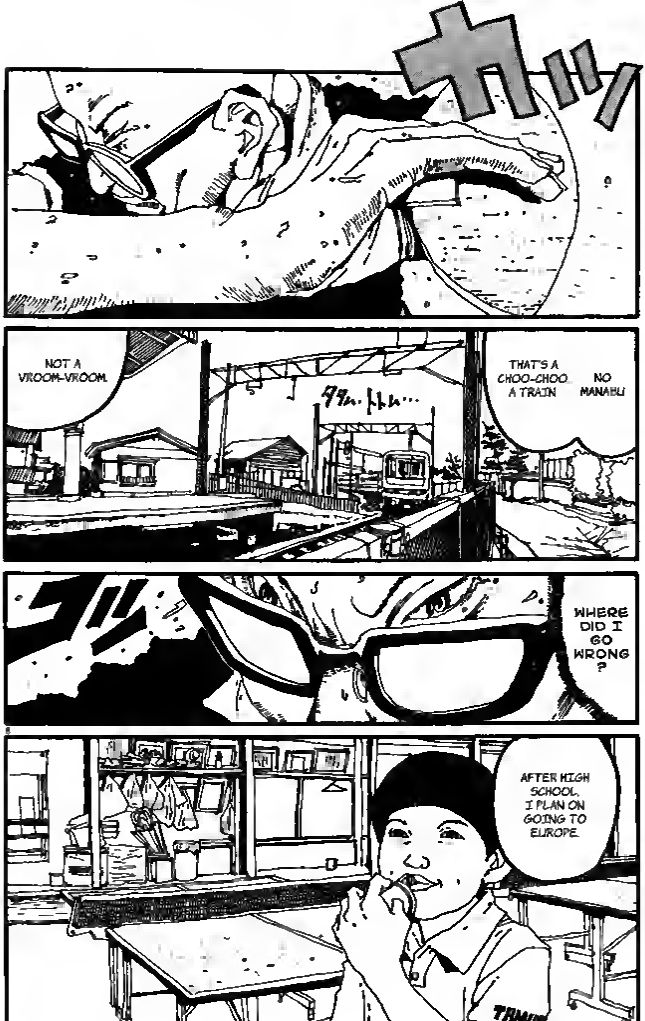
AARGH!
OUT!
8 00 21
FLIP
SHIT!!
21 - 8.
FIRST GAME,
TSUKIMOTO
!!


0 0 1 0
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
Game count: 1 - 0
CRAP! I CAN'T PREDICT HIS SHOTS ANYMORE I CAN'T THROW HIM OFF, EITHER
HAAAHH
HAHH
HE'S EASILY COUNTER-ING MY BLOCK IN CENTER
HAHH
GRIP
HAHH
HAHH
I FEEL LIKE I'M PLAYING WITH A UNIVERSITY STUDENT OR A PRO—
HAHH
HAHH



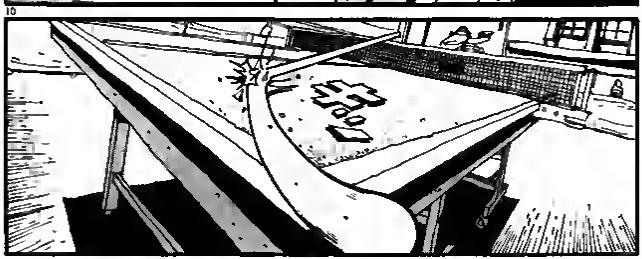

KHH
WHERE DID I GO WRONG?
WHERE DID I SLIP UP?
AAAH..
WHUP
TCHH!

WHERE DID I GO WRONG?
YOU'RE HIGHLY ASTIGMATIC, MANABU
WHERE DID I SLIP UP?
FROM NOW ON, WHENEVER YOUR EYES GET TIRED LOOK OFF INTO THE DISTANCE.
KHH
HEY MANABU LOOK
THIS CHILD ISN'T LIKE ME. HE'S GOT GOOD EYE-SIGHT
SHH!


NOT A VROOM-VROOM.
THAT'S A CHOO-CHOO. A TRAIN
NO MANABU
WHERE DID I GO WRONG?
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, I PLAN ON GOING TO EUROPE.

HEY, MANABU
SQUEAK
butterfly
SEE FROM HERE...?
WHAT DO YOU...
WHERE DID I SLIP UP?
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU
AH, SAKUMA, YOU'RE PART OF THE BEST
KUNGFU
ガッ

10



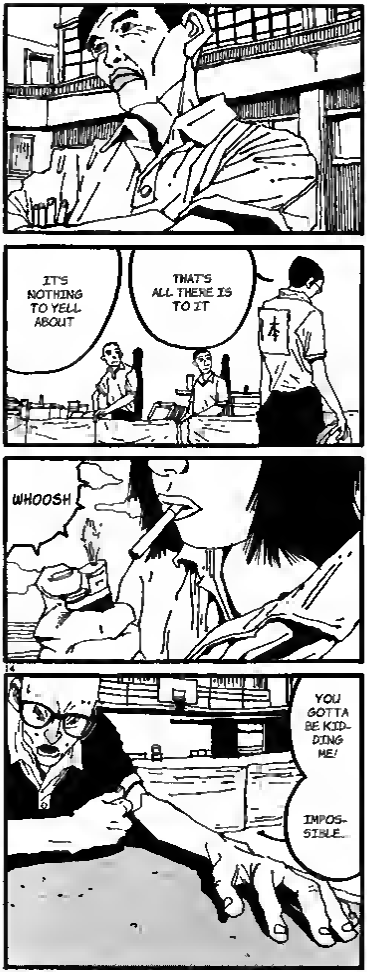
LIWAH!
5 - 0
!!
FUCK!
SERVICE CHANGE
!!
!!

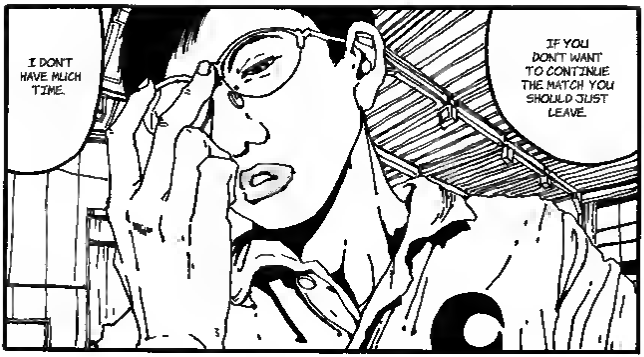
.....
WHY!!
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE YOU ?!
12
10 TIMES, 100 TIMES... NO, 1000 TIMES MORE THAN YOU HAVE!!
I TRAINED LIKE CRAZY!!

IN ORDER TO BEAT PEKO!!
IN ORDER TO MAKE KAZAMA RESPECT ME!!
KATASE

13

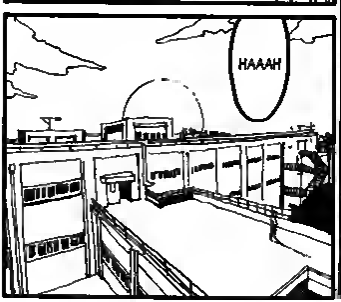
IT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE THE TALENT.
I GAVE IT MY ALL AND YET...
NIGHT AND DAY, ALL I THOUGHT ABOUT WAS PING PONG!


IT'S NOTHING TO YELL ABOUT
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT
WHOOSH
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!
IMPOSSIBLE...


I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO CONTINUE THE MATCH YOU SHOULD JUST LEAVE.

15

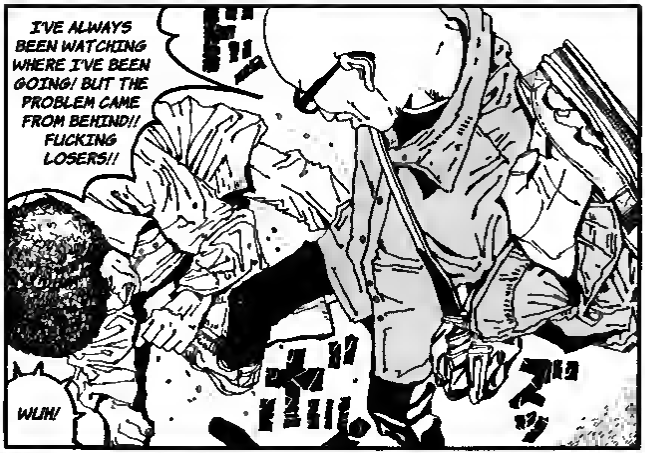
PFFFT


HAAAH

THIS ISN'T POSSIBLE...

YEAH. THERE'S A LOT OF THEO-RIES OUT THERE ABOUT BRUCE LEE'S DEATH...
ゴォォォォ
OW...
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOI-...
YOU HURT ME, KID!
UGH!
...UP YOURS!

Manabu Sakuma, member of Kaio High's ping pong club,

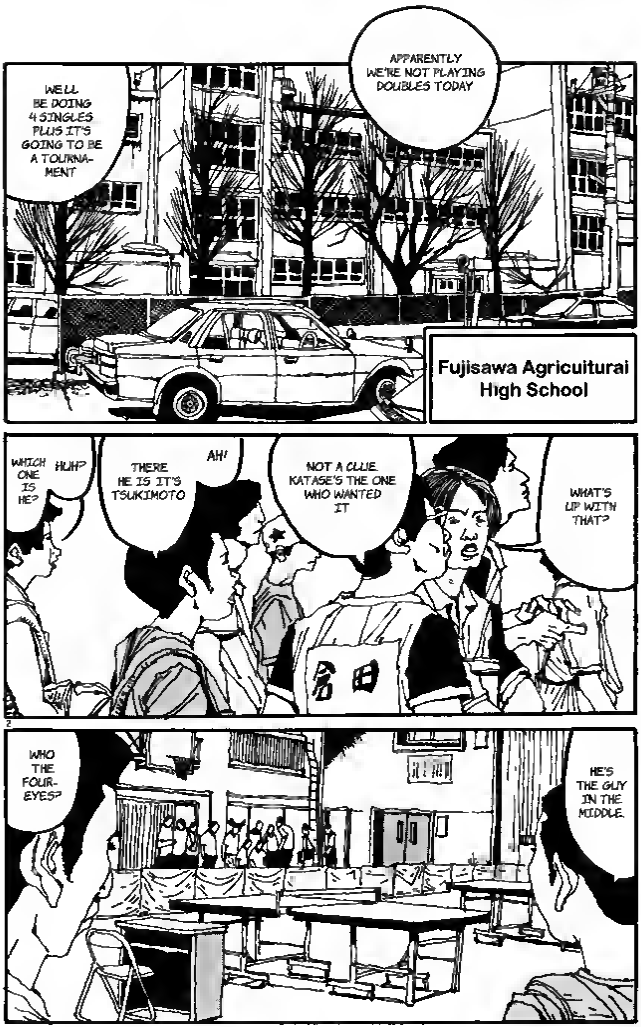


has been suspended from school for two weeks due to an act of violence involving grievous bodily harm.

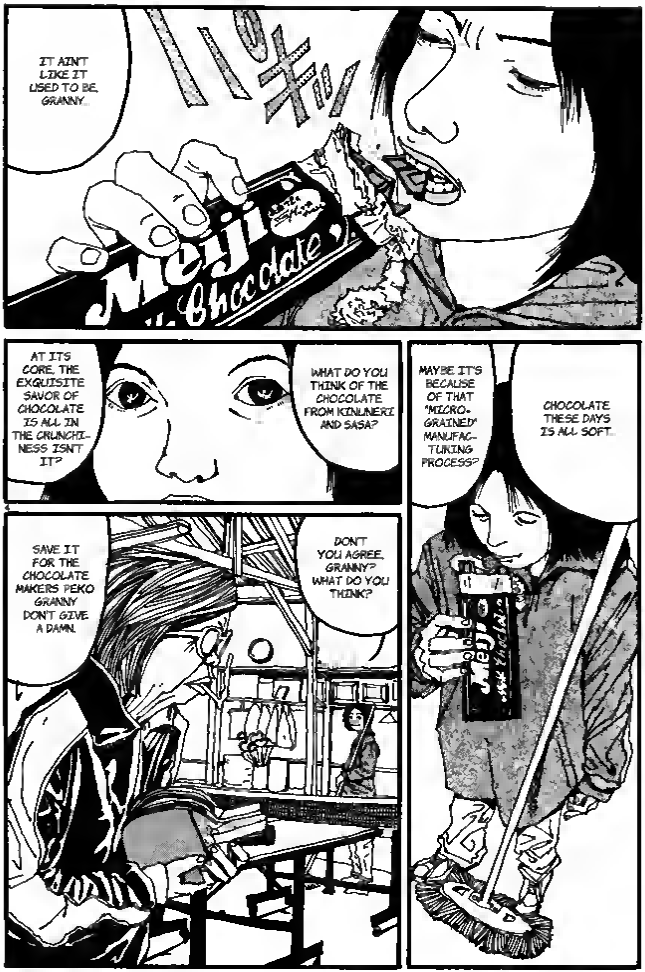
He resigned from his club shortly thereafter.

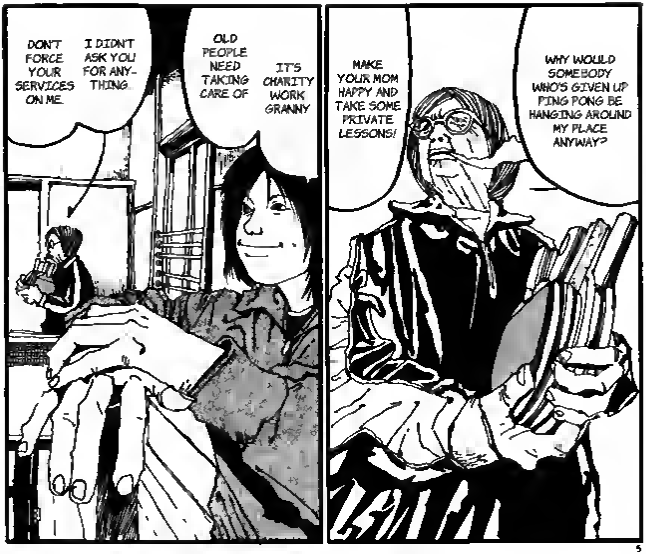
HUP
SLIP
コオオオ
HEH HEH SORRY, FRIEND
16
REST IN PEACE.
コオオオ

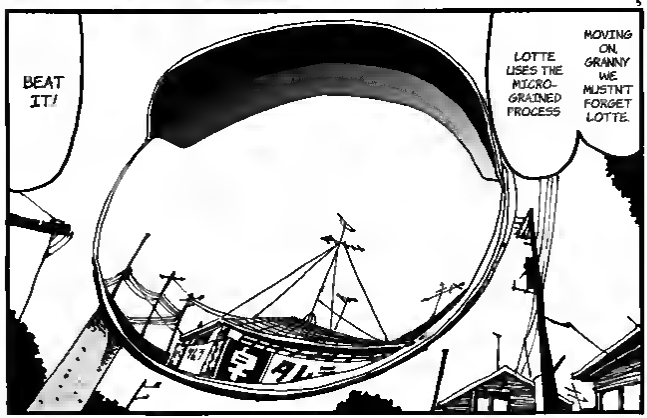
CHAPTER 27
SMILE THE ROBOT


APPARENTLY WE'RE NOT PLAYING DOUBLES TODAY
WELL BE DOING 4 SINGLES PLUS IT'S GOING TO BE A TOURNA-MENT
Fujisawa Agricuiturai High School
WHICH ONE IS HE?
HUH?
THERE HE IS IT'S TSUKIMOTO
AH!
NOT A CLUE. KATASE'S THE ONE WHO WANTED IT
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
WHO THE FOUR-EYES?
HE'S THE GUY IN THE MIDDLE.

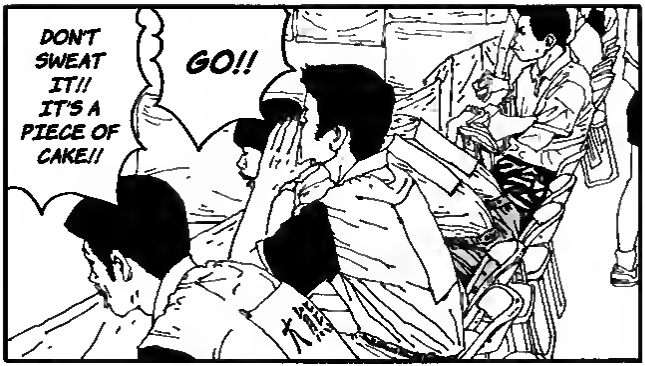
KATASE'S STILL KATASE.
MEH!
AND I HEAR HE'S A CYBORG TOO
THEY SAY HE'S GOT MAD SKILLS HE'S GOT THE LONG PIMPLES MASTERED
SINCE THEY SAY HE'S AS GOOD AS DRAGON, I WAS EXPECTING HIM TO BE A LITTLE MORE IMPOSING
TRUE. WE'RE NOT GOING TO GRACIOUSLY LET OURSELVES BE USED AS TRAINING FOR THEIR ROBOT.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TAKE OUT TSUKIMOTO AND THE OTHERS'LL BE A CINCH.

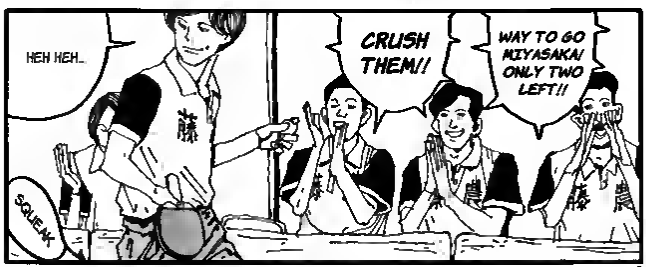

IT AIN'T LIKE IT USED TO BE, GRANNY.
Meiji Chocolate
AT ITS CORE, THE EXQUISITE SAVOR OF CHOCOLATE IS ALL IN THE CRUNCHI-NESS ISN'T IT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE CHOCOLATE FROM KINUNERI AND SASA?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT "MICRO-GRAINED" MANUFAC-TURING PROCESS?
CHOCOLATE THESE DAYS IS ALL SOFT.
SAVE IT FOR THE CHOCOLATE MAKERS PEKO GRANNY DON'T GIVE A DAMN.
DON'T YOU AGREE, GRANNY? WHAT DO YOU THINK?


DON'T FORCE YOUR SERVICES ON ME.
I DIDN'T ASK YOU FOR ANY-THING.
OLD PEOPLE NEED TAKING CARE OF
IT'S CHARITY WORK GRANNY
MAKE YOUR MOM HAPPY AND TAKE SOME PRIVATE LESSONS!
WHY WOULD SOMEBODY WHO'S GIVEN UP PING PONG BE HANGING AROUND MY PLACE ANYWAY?
5


BEAT IT!
LOTTE USES THE MICRO-GRAINED PROCESS
MOVING ON, GRANNY WE MUSTN'T FORGET LOTTE.

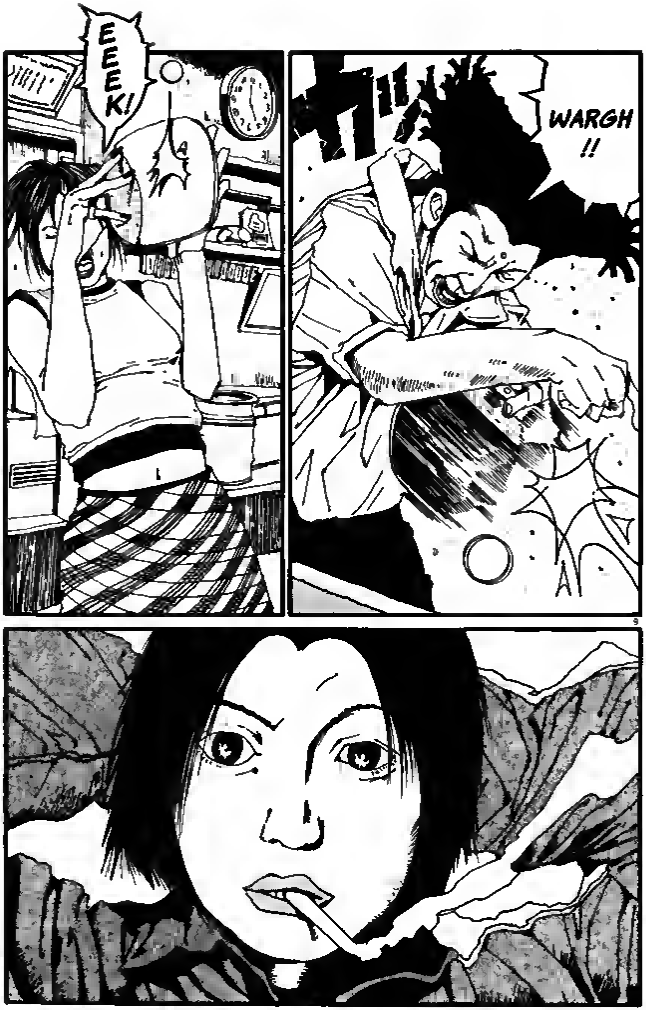
藤農
GHH!
OUT.
吉村
SQUEAK
大田
×高村
×木村
宮坂
大熊
(H神)
藤嶺
TONO!!
GAME SET!
21
20
8

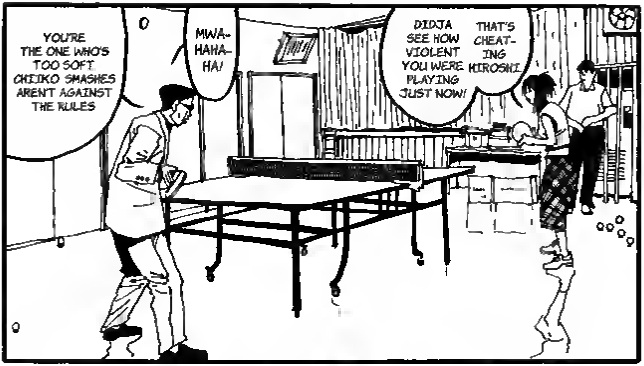

DON'T SWEAT IT!! IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE!!
GO!!


HEH HEH..
SQUEAK
CRUSH THEM!!
WAY TO GO MIYASAKA! ONLY TWO LEFT!!

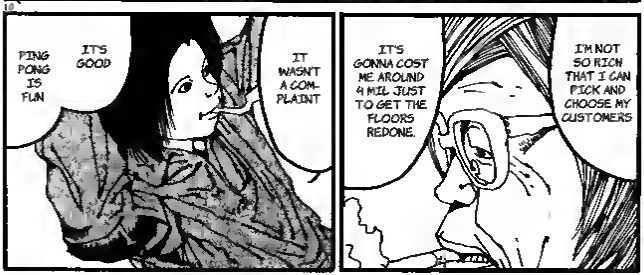
IT'S NO BIG DEAL, TAKAMURA!
FORGET ABOUT IT
SORRY OTA..

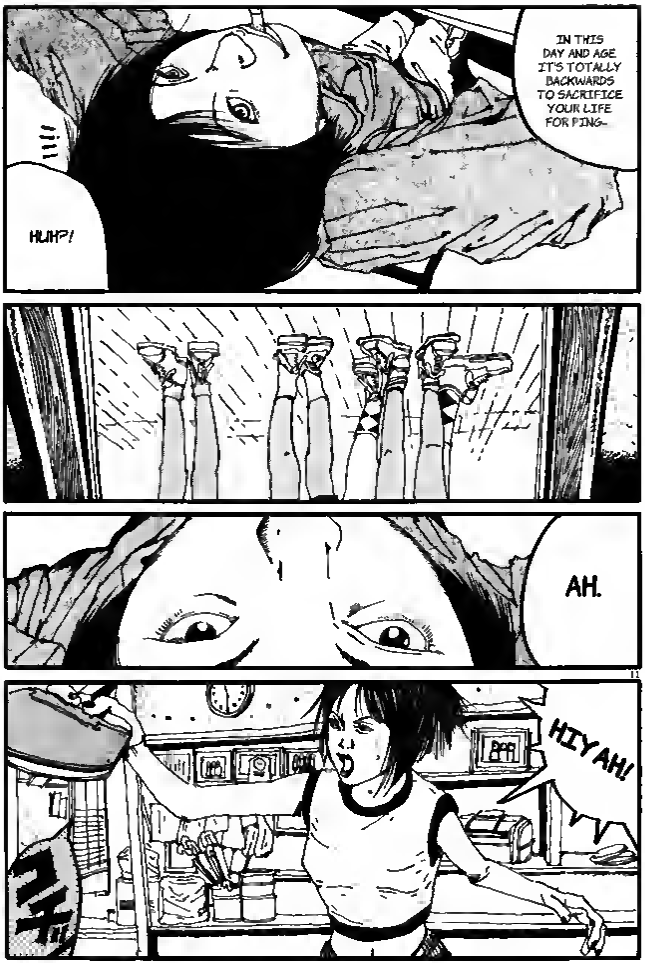
I'M GONNA GET HIM GOOD!
ALRIGHT, HE SHOULD BE EXHAUSTED!
.....
WAS IT TOO MUCH FOR THEM?
HMM..
UH..
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST
NEVER MIND..
IT'S THE SAME THING EVERY TIME
YOU SHOULD KNOW YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ORGANIZED THIS MATCH..
HUH?


EEEK!
WARGH !!


YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S TOO SOFT CHIIKO SMASHES AREN'T AGAINST THE RULES
MWA-HAHA-HA!
DIDJA SEE HOW VIOLENT YOU WERE PLAYING JUST NOW!
THAT'S CHEATING HIROSHI

PFF!
MORE AND MORE PEOPLE LIKE THEM HAVE BEEN COMING THESE DAYS GRANNY
卓球
タムラ


PING PONG IS FUN
IT'S GOOD
IT WASN'T A COMPLAINT
IT'S GONNA COST ME AROUND 4 MIL JUST TO GET THE FLOORS REDONE.
I'M NOT SO RICH THAT I CAN PICK AND CHOOSE MY CUSTOMERS


IN THIS DAY AND AGE IT'S TOTALLY BACKWARDS TO SACRIFICE YOUR LIFE FOR PING-
HUH?
AH.
HIYAH!

GAME SET!
FLIP
11 12 21
WARGH !!
YEAH!
12
SORRY, TSUKI-MOTO!
IT'S OK.
I WAS KIND OF EXPECTING IT...
SQUEAK

PONG
GRR
..CAN'T STAND THAT GUY
.....
片瀬
瀬
片瀬
大田

13

OOH, A PICTURE FROM THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

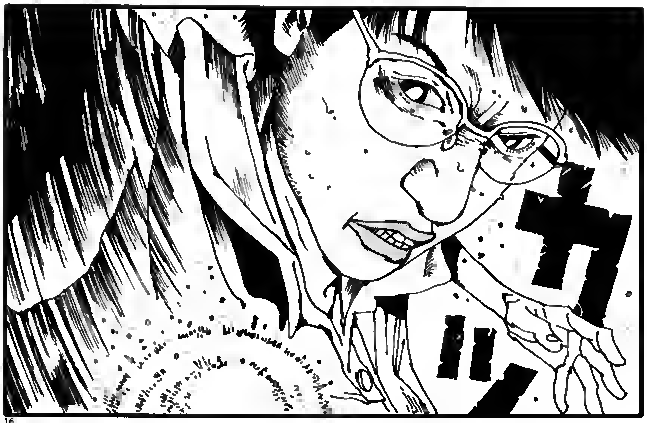
STAY COOL, MIYASAKA!
OH! HERE HE COMES!
本

Mr ROBOT
ARE YOUR BATTERIES ALL RE-CHARGED? HEHE...

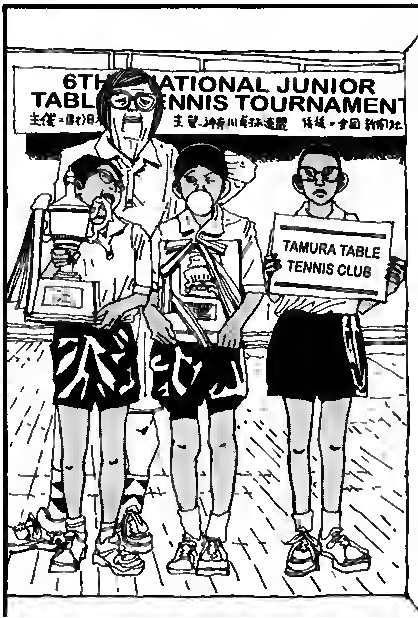
.....

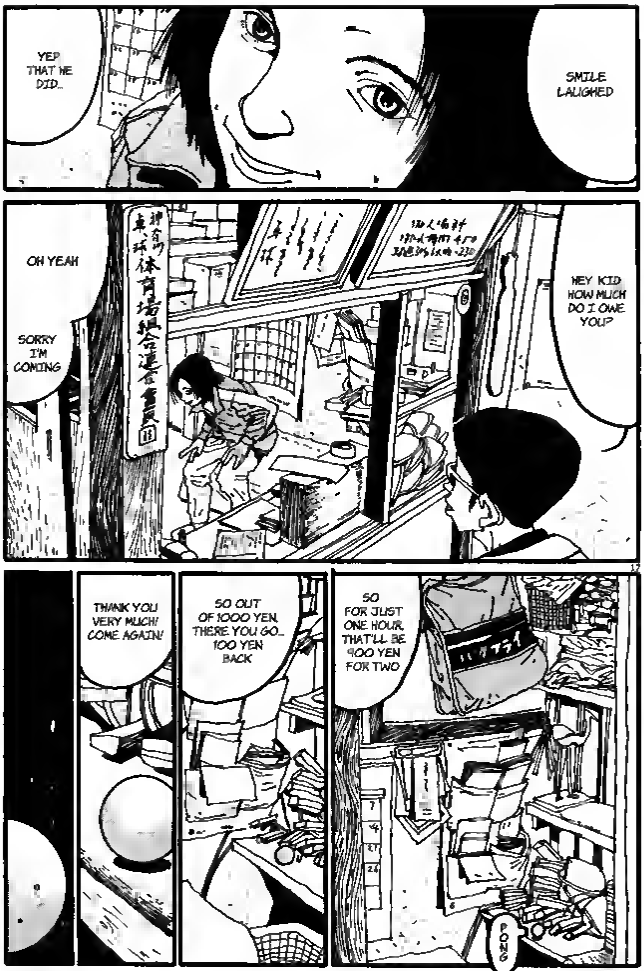
GHH!
SQUEAK

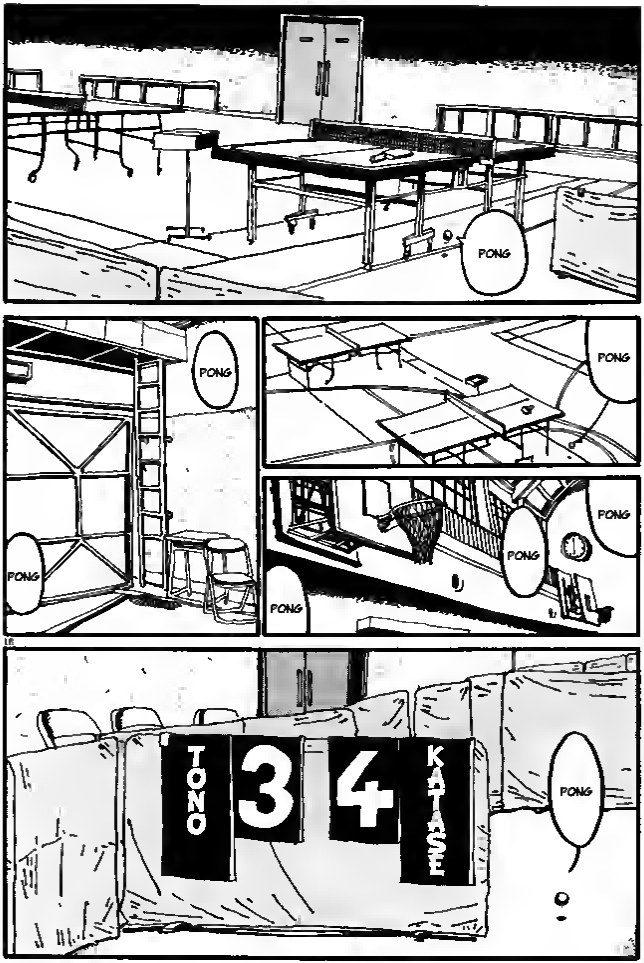
TCH
WHIP
SQUEAK
OW...
SHH
PING
FLIP
21

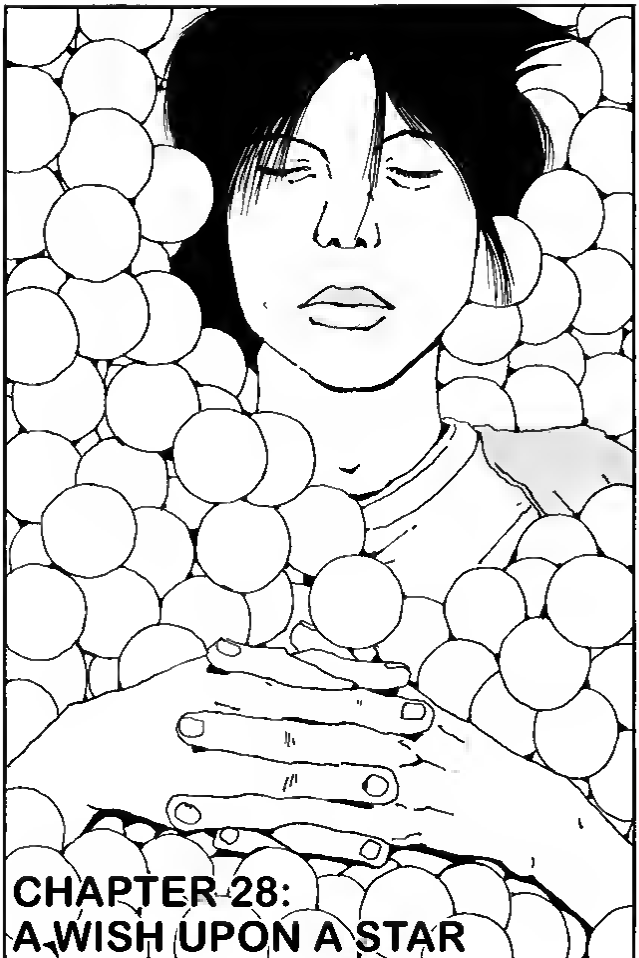


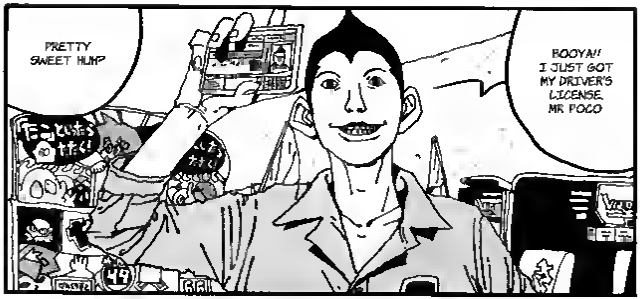
THAT WAS BACK WHEN...
THAT'S RIGHT I REMEMBER THAT


6TH NATIONAL JUNIOR
TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT
TAMURA TABLE TENNIS CLUB


YEP THAT HE DID..
SMILE LAUGHED
OH YEAH
SORRY I'M COMING
HEY KID HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH! COME AGAIN!
SO OUT OF 1000 YEN THERE YOU GO... 100 YEN BACK
SO FOR JUST ONE HOUR THAT'LL BE 900 YEN FOR TWO
PONG

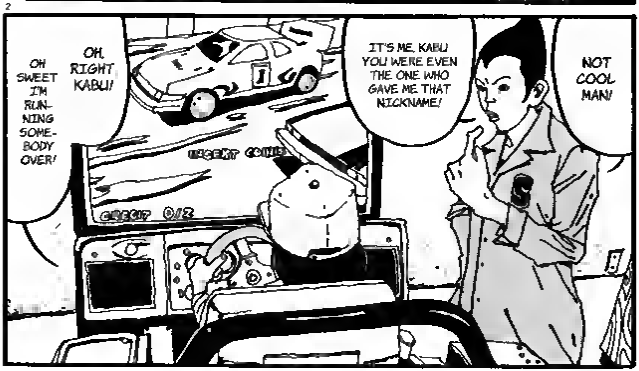

PONG
PONG
PONG
PONG
PONG
PONG
PONG
TONO
3
4
KATASE
PONG


CHAPTER 28:
A WISH UPON A STAR


PRETTY SWEET HUH?
BOOYA!! I JUST GOT MY DRIVER'S LICENSE, MR POCO

WHO'RE YOU?

2

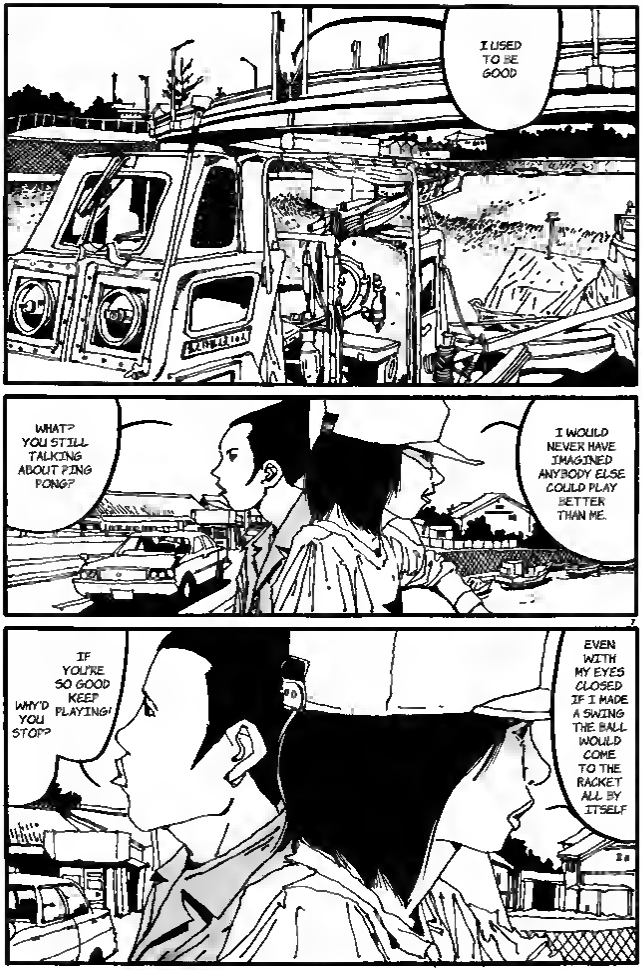

OH SWEET I'M RUNNING SOME-BODY OVER!
OH, RIGHT KABU!
IT'S ME, KABU YOU WERE EVEN THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THAT NICKNAME!
NOT COOL MAN!

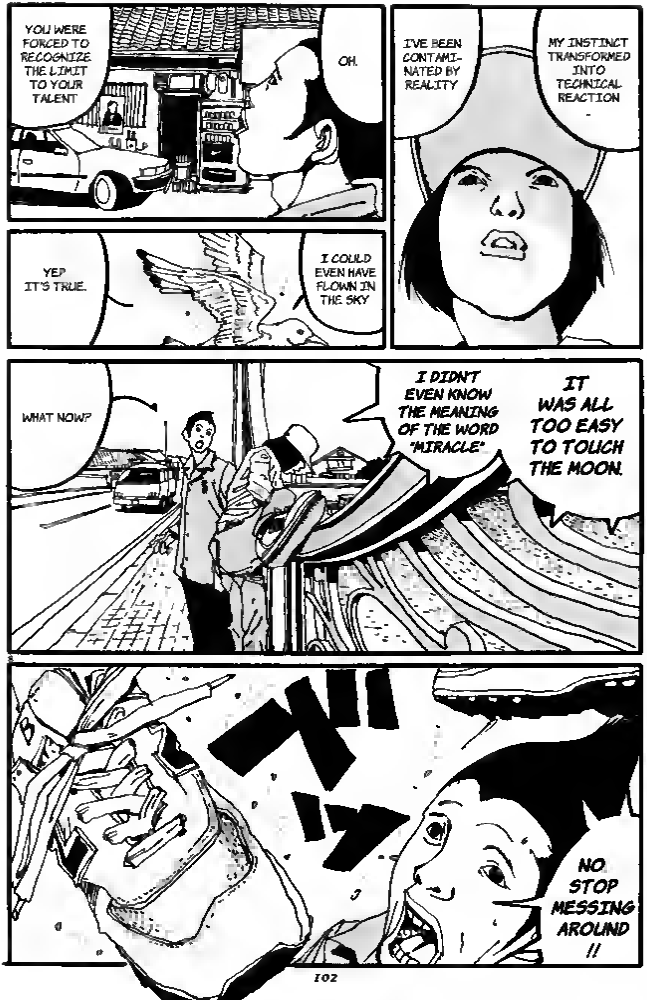
ACCORDING TO GRANNY IF A HIGH-LEVEL OFFENSIVE PLAYER DOESN'T TRAIN FOR THREE DAYS...
LIKE...
MR. POCO YOU'VE LOST SOME WEIGHT HAVEN'T YOU?
ARE YOU SICK?
CLINK
WHAP
IT'LL TAKE HIM AT LEAST A WEEK TO REGAIN HIS REFLEXES
A HIGH-WHAT?
HUH?
NEW
SEGA
MIDWAY

?
AND IF HE DOESN'T TRAIN FOR A MONTH, HE'S SCREWED
YOU JUST GONNA LEAVE IT?
MR POCO WHAT ABOUT THAT THING?
I THOUGHT I ALREADY RESIGNED
DAMN
THAT'S DEATH!!
AH!
4 MONTHS
TURN

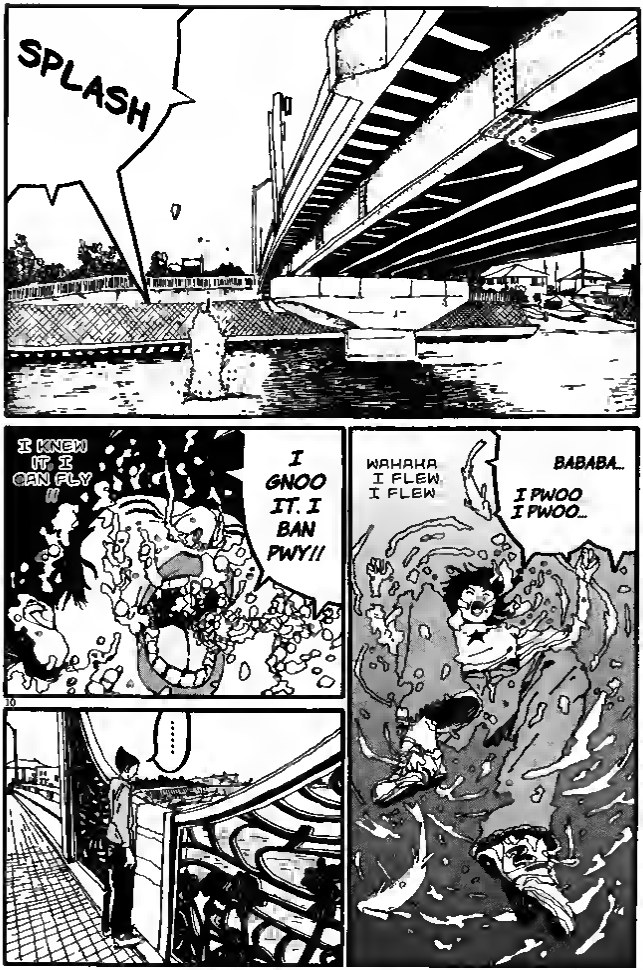
WOOCHAAAAA!!
REAL
SHIT! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE. MR. POCO! AMSCRAY!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!? BUNCH OF PUNKS!
EEEEEEEEP
BAM
BAM
BAM

SFX WOOF WOOF WOOF
I CAN FEEL MY CELLS DEGENERATING
MAN THAT FREAKED ME OUT!
ワン
ワンワン
ワンワンワン
I'M LOSING MY REFLEXES
WE'RE IN DEEP SHIT WITH THAT ARCADE. WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO..?
WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF...
DON'T MAKE ME EAT YOU!!
SHUT YOUR MOUTH YOU STUPID MUTT!
HEYYY
MY TRUE NATURE IS BEING UNHINGED
.....


I USED TO BE GOOD
WHAT? YOU STILL TALKING ABOUT PING PONG?
I WOULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED ANYBODY ELSE COULD PLAY BETTER THAN ME.
WHY'D YOU STOP?
IF YOU'RE SO GOOD KEEP PLAYING!
EVEN WITH MY EYES CLOSED IF I MADE A SWING THE BALL WOULD COME TO THE RACKET ALL BY ITSELF


YOU WERE FORCED TO RECOGNIZE THE LIMIT TO YOUR TALENT
OH.
I'VE BEEN CONTAMINATED BY REALITY
MY INSTINCT TRANSFORMED INTO TECHNICAL REACTION
YEP IT'S TRUE.
I COULD EVEN HAVE FLOWN IN THE SKY
WHAT NOW?
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD "MIRACLE"
IT WAS ALL TOO EASY TO TOUCH THE MOON.
NO STOP MESSING AROUND !!

CHECK IT OUT, KABU!!
HEY...
I'M FLYING ...

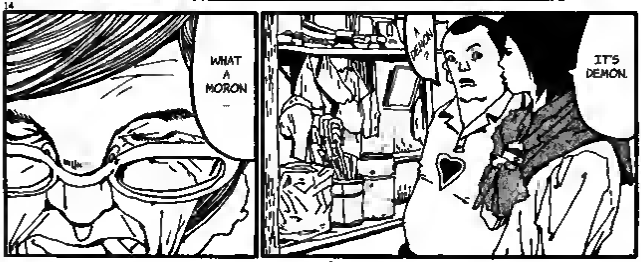

SPLASH
I KNEW IT. I CAN FLY
I GNOO IT. I BAN PWY!!
WAHAHA I FLEW I FLEW
BABABA..
I PWOO I PWOO...

PLOSH
BRRR...
タムラ
...SNIFF
PLOSH
SLIDE
HIYA
AH.
MR. PEKO!!
THERE'S THIS GUY AND HE'S REALLY AWE-SOME.
AS AWE-SOME AS YOU, MR. PEKO
WHO'RE YOU?

IS HE REALLY ALL THAT AWESOME?
I WAS KIDDING CHUBSY
HUH. BUT..
THAT DEFENSIVE PLAYER'S GOT ONE HELL OF A CHOP SHOT!
HE'S NO AMATEUR, I CAN TELL.
GLASSES?
THE GUY WITH GLASSES
YEAH. FOR REAL! HE'S AT TABLE #4
...SMILE?
CHOP SHOT?
FFFH

HUH?
NOPE. IT AIN'T HIM.
HE IS A CHILDHOOD FRIEND TOO THOUGH
ACHOO
THEN WHO IS IT?
SNIFF...

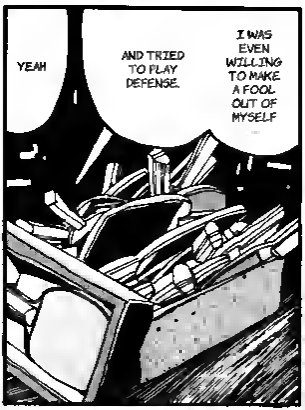
AAH...
カ
ン
SHH!

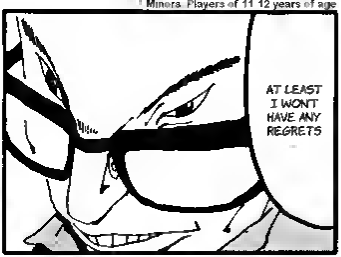

WHAT A MORON...
DEMON
IT'S DEMON.

PONG
PING
PONG
EVEN CHANGING HIS STYLE NOW IT'S TOO LATE
AS MEDIOCRE AS HE IS
HMM...
HIS CHOP WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO CUT THROUGH TOFU
キュッ
HUH?
キュキュッ
AH..

AH DO YOU STILL DIVE INTO THE RIVER WHENEVER YOU'RE DEPRESSED?
LOOK AT THAT YOU'RE SOAKED PEKO
GOOD STUFF I'M IMPRESSED
YEAH
NOT BAD FOR BEING SELF-TAUGHT HUH?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY TOP-SPIN?
HE HE
HMPH
.....

! Minors. Players of 11 12 years of age





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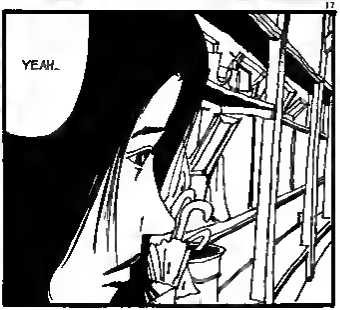
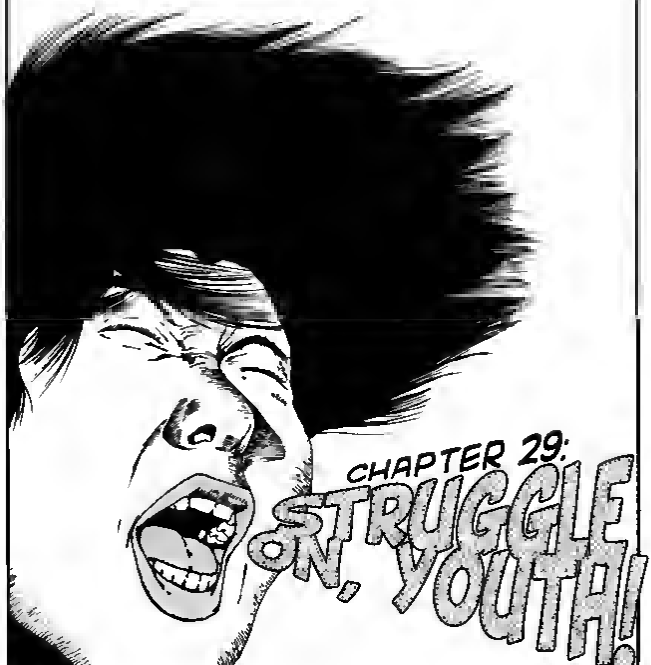


YEAH...
BUT EVEN THIS PLAY STYLE DOESN'T DO ME ONE BIT OF GOOD
SOME BIRDS AREN'T ABLE TO FLY
CAW

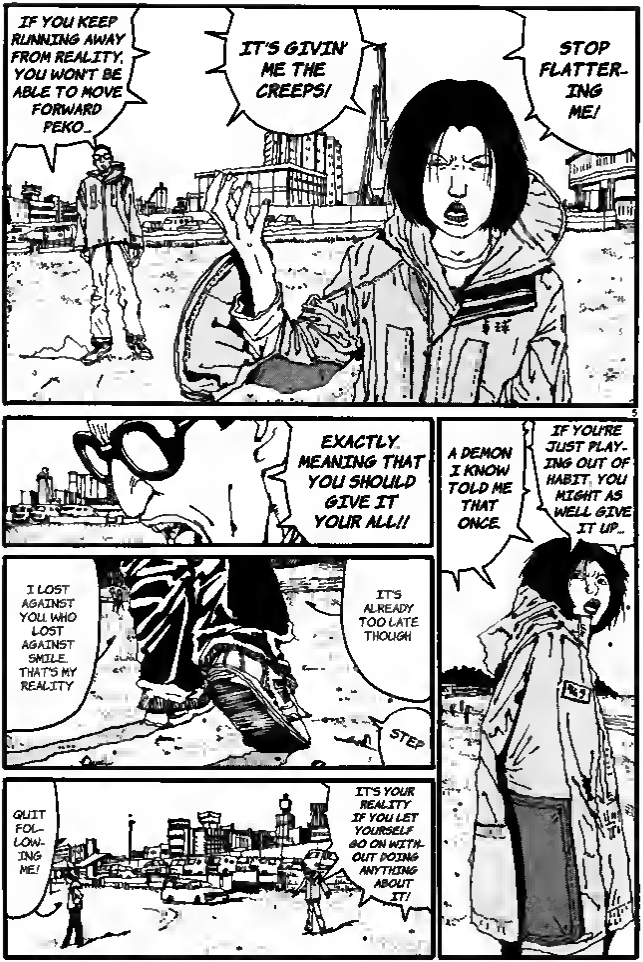
CHAPTER 29: STRUGGLE ON, YOUTH!

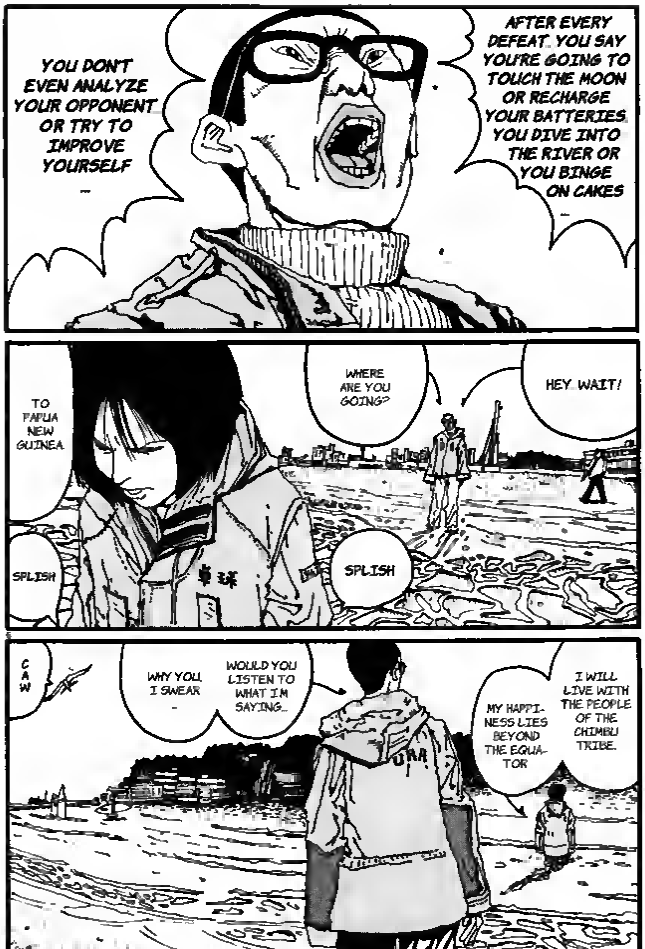


KEEP PLAYING TABLE TENNIS!
BUT YOU HAVE TALENT SO..
ビュウウウ

HEH..
HEH HEH HEH ..
WHO'RE YOU?
ザァアアアア
HELLOOO PEKO! I'M TALKING TO YOU!!
I VISITED ALL KINDS OF CLUBS TO LEARN TO PLAY DEFENSE, BUT IT WAS ALL IN VAIN
I BEAT UP A THUG I GOT SUSPENDED I RESIGNED FROM MY CLUB..
ゴウン ゴウン
ゴウン
I DID A LOT OF THINKING
AFTER MY DEFEAT AGAINST SMILE..
I TRIED IT ALL HEH HEH..

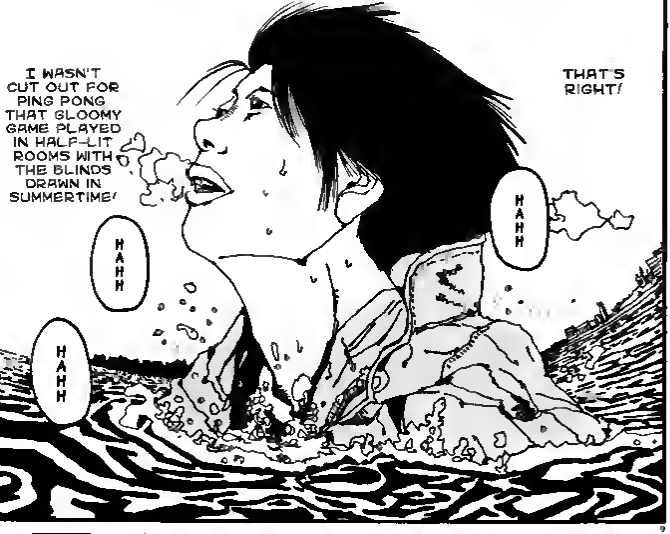
YEAH, ONCE YOU MAKE IT OUT OF THE CIRCLE OF COMPETITION, YOU SEE THINGS MUCH CLEARER.
CLICK
CLEAR?
ONCE I ACCEPTED MY LIMITS, I FELT CALMER AND EVERYTHING BECAME CLEAR.
I SHOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD MY LIMITS SOONER.
CAW
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL THERE.
SSST
YOU'RE COMPLICATING EVERYTHING I'M NOT GETTING ANY OF THIS.
PSHT
THAT MUCH I GUARANTEE YOU
YOU'VE GOT AN EXCEPTIONAL SENSE FOR TABLE TENNIS
S..

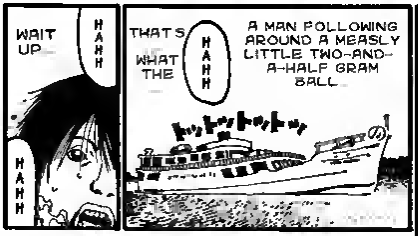

IF YOU KEEP RUNNING AWAY FROM REALITY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD PEKO-
IT'S GIVIN' ME THE CREEPS!
STOP FLATTER-ING ME!
EXACTLY. MEANING THAT YOU SHOULD GIVE IT YOUR ALL!!
A DEMON I KNOW TOLD ME THAT ONCE.
IF YOU'RE JUST PLAY-ING OUT OF HABIT, YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IT UP-
I LOST AGAINST YOU, WHO LOST AGAINST SMILE. THAT'S MY REALITY
IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE THOUGH
STEP
QUIT FOL-LOWING ME!
IT'S YOUR REALITY IF YOU LET YOURSELF GO ON WITH-OUT DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT!


YOU DON'T EVEN ANALYZE YOUR OPPONENT OR TRY TO IMPROVE YOURSELF
AFTER EVERY DEFEAT YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO TOUCH THE MOON OR RECHARGE YOUR BATTERIES YOU DIVE INTO THE RIVER OR YOU BINGE ON CAKES
TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HEY WAIT!
SPLISH
SPLISH
CAW
WHY YOU, I SWEAR
WOULD YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I'M SAYING...
MY HAPPINESS LIES BEYOND THE EQUATOR
I WILL LIVE WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE CHIMBU TRIBE.

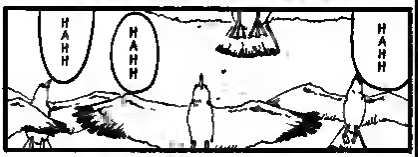
PAAAAART THE WAAAAAVES
WHY KILL SUCH AN EXTRAORDINARY TALENT?
WHY DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME RUNNING AWAY?!
I IMITATED EVERYTHING: YOUR PLAY STYLE, YOUR PADDLE, EVEN YOUR FORM!
JUST IMAGINE! TO ME YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE IDEAL TO REACH FOR!
TO ALL OF US, YOU WERE...
AND I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE, EITHER... ALL OF OUR FRIENDS ADMIRED YOU!

ピュウウウウ
NNNGH
AH, TO BE A TEENAGER AGAIN!
HEH HEH HEH! CRAZY KIDS!
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO TAKE A BATH
ZIP
THAT HERO REALLY KNOWS HOW TO GET ON MY NERVES
BAH...
SPLASH
IT'S NOVEM-BER...
CAW
IT'S FREEZ-IN

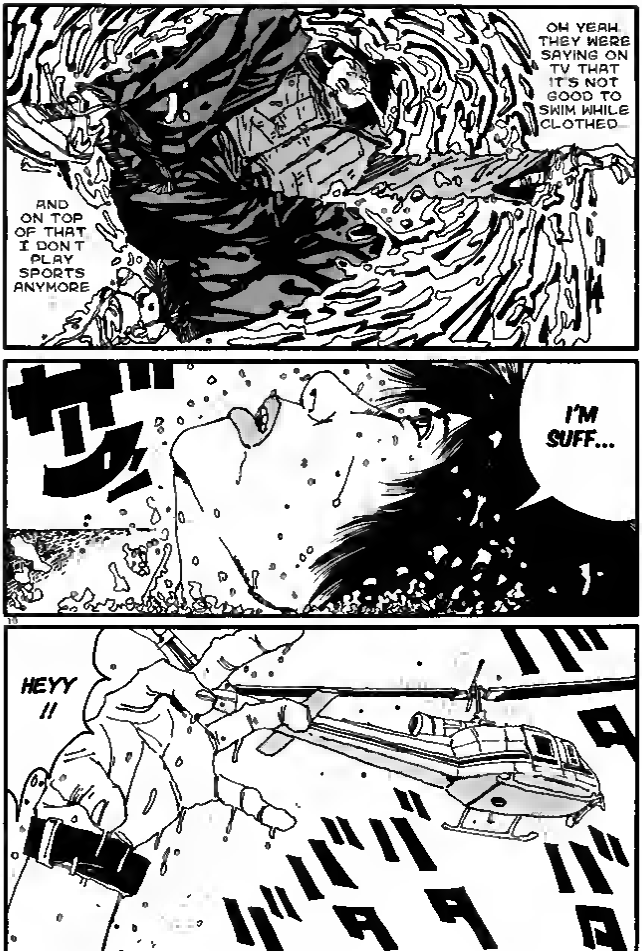

I WASN'T CUT OUT FOR PING PONG THAT GLOOMY GAME PLAYED IN HALF-LIT ROOMS WITH THE BLINDS DRAWN IN SUMMERTIME!
THAT'S RIGHT!
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH

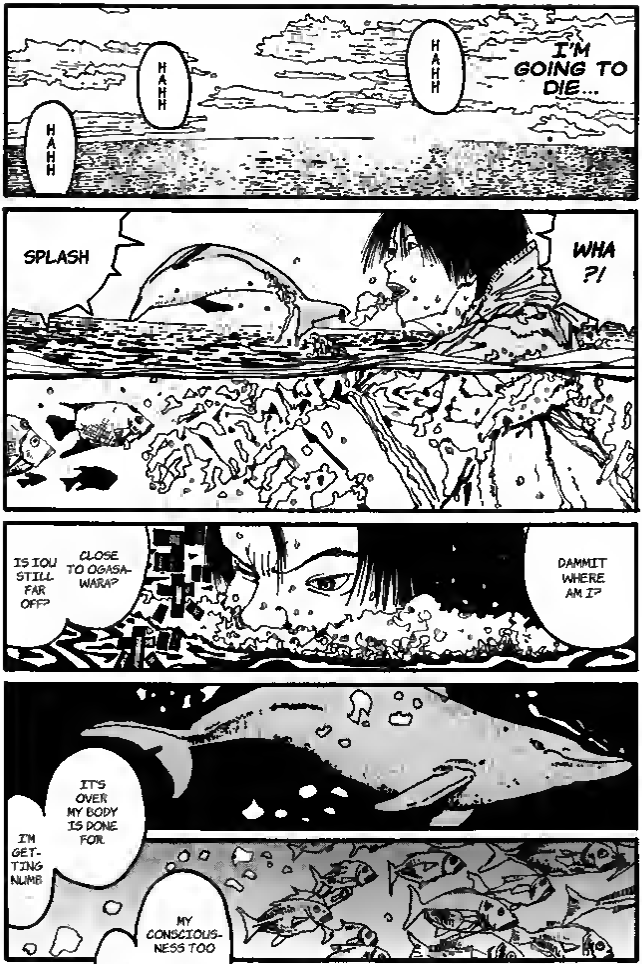

WAIT UP...
HAHH
HAHH
THAT'S WHAT THE
HAHH
A MAN FOLLOWING AROUND A MEASLY LITTLE TWO-AND-A-HALF GRAM BALL...

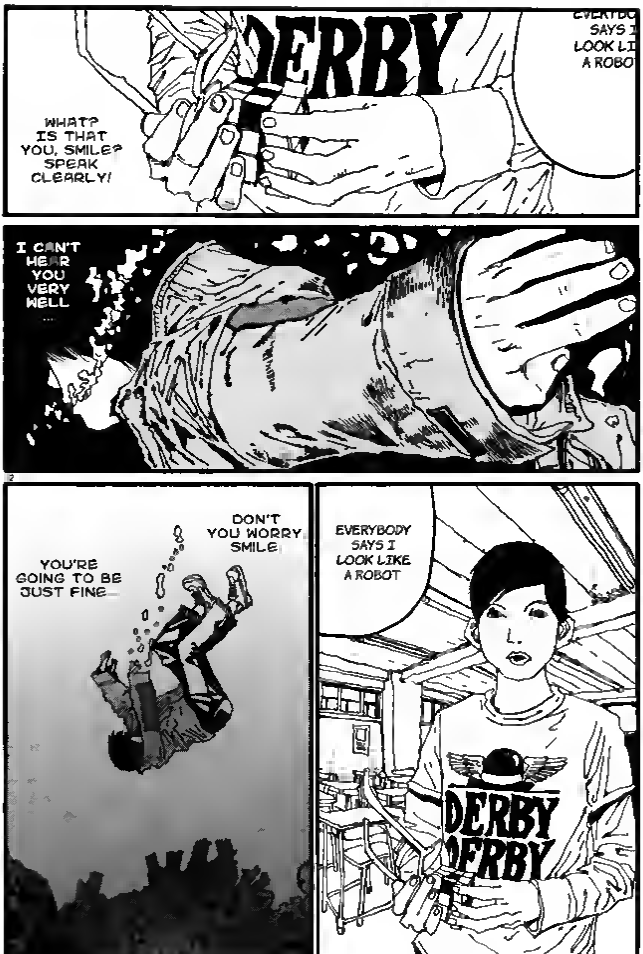
I NEEDED SOMETHING MORE AGGRESSIVE,
LIKE TAEKWONDO OR KABADDI!!!

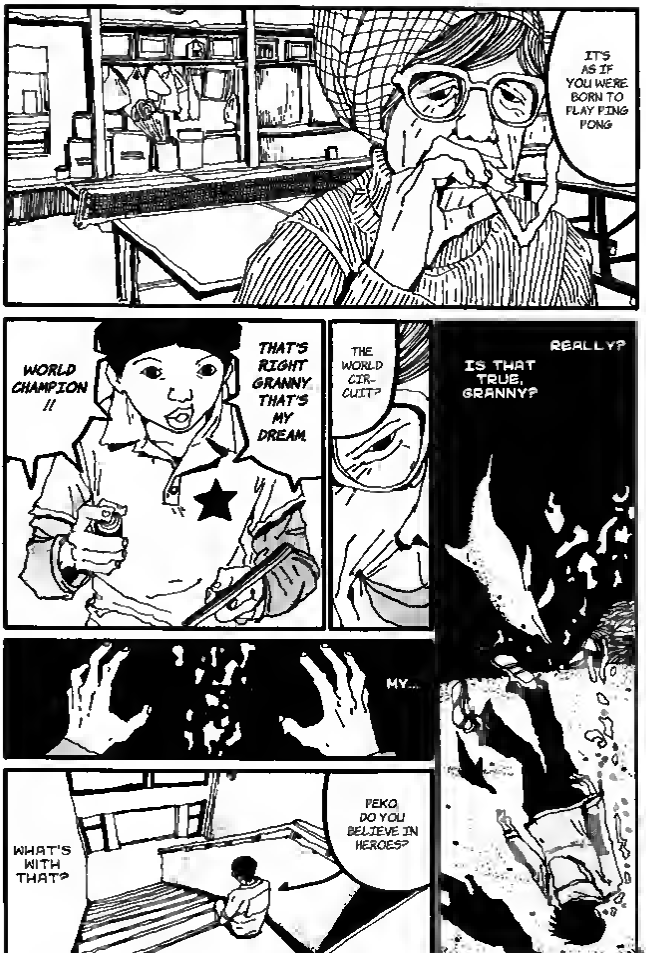

HAHH
HAHH
HAHH

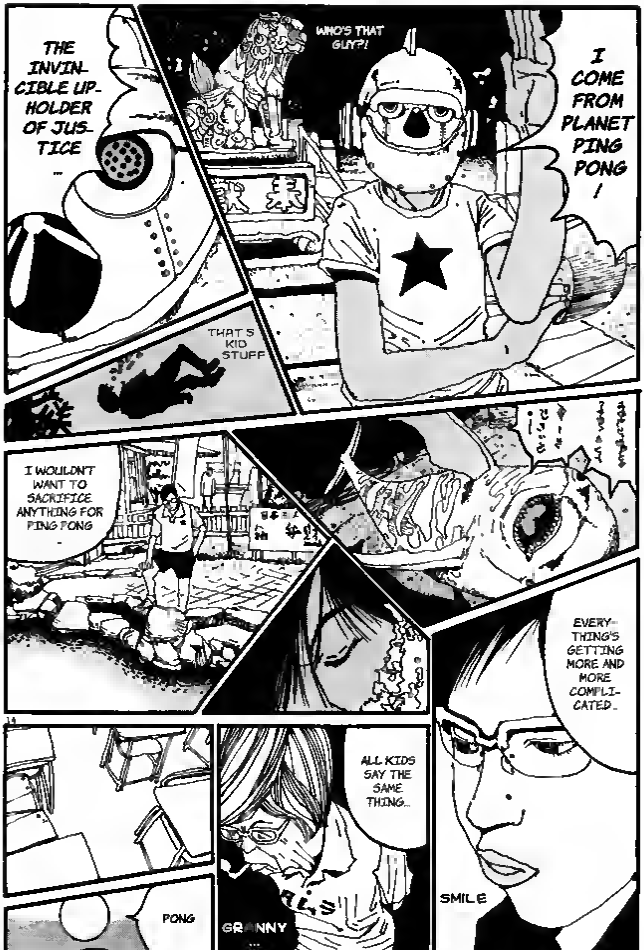
BREATHE ANYM...
I CAN'T

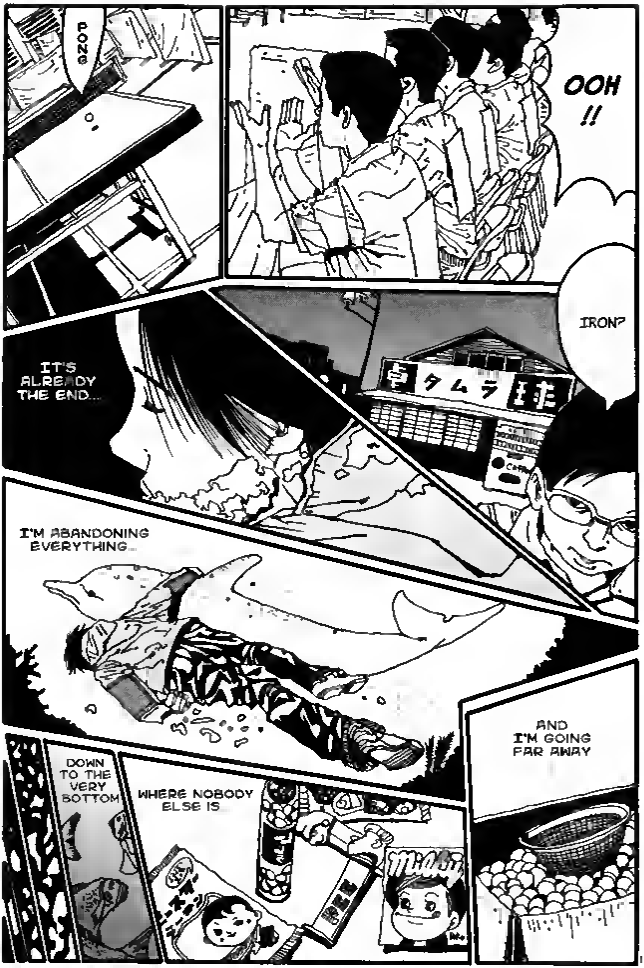

OH YEAH THEY WERE SAYING ON TV THAT IT'S NOT GOOD TO SWIM WHILE CLOTHED...
AND ON TOP OF THAT I DON'T PLAY SPORTS ANYMORE
ザブン
I'M SUFF...
HEYY !!

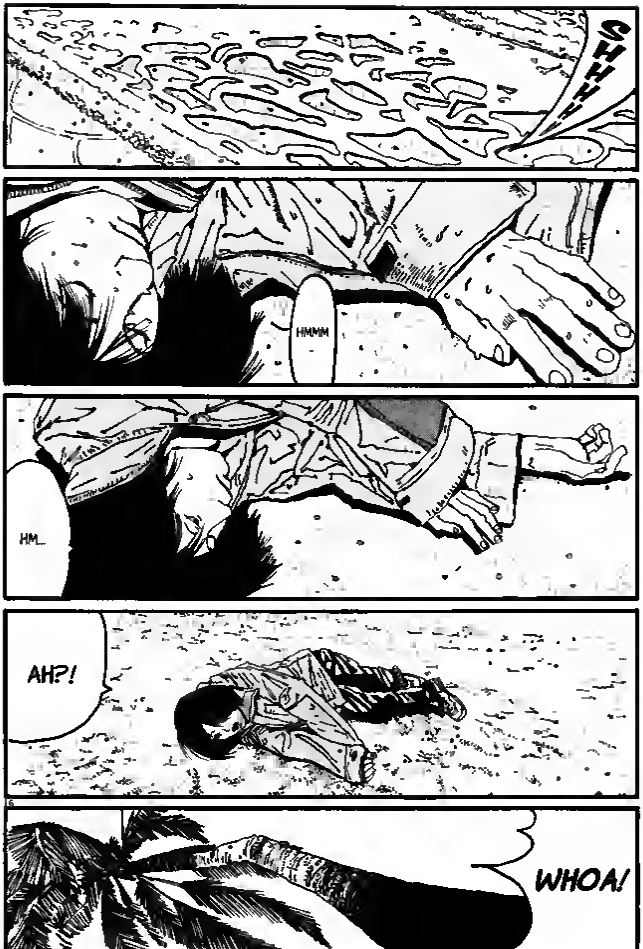

I'M GOING TO DIE...
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
SPLASH
WHA ?!
DAMMIT WHERE AM I?
CLOSE TO OGASAWARA?
IS IOU STILL FAR OFF?
IT'S OVER MY BODY IS DONE FOR.
I'M GETTING NUMB
MY CONSCIOUSNESS TOO
AHH.


DERBY
EVERYBO
SAYS I
LOOK LI
A ROBO
WHAT? IS THAT YOU, SMILE? SPEAK CLEARLY!
I CAN'T HEAR YOU VERY WELL...
DON'T YOU WORRY SMILE
YOU'RE GOING TO BE JUST FINE...
EVERYBODY SAYS I LOOK LIKE A ROBOT
DERBY
ERBY

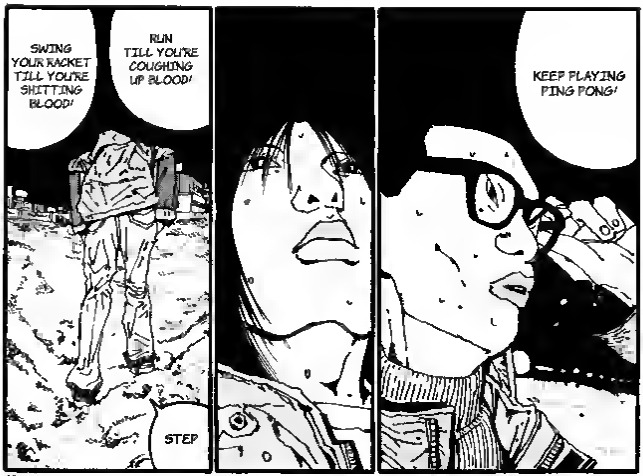

IT'S AS IF YOU WERE BORN TO PLAY PING PONG
WORLD CHAMPION !!
THAT'S RIGHT GRANNY, THAT'S MY DREAM.
THE WORLD CIR-CUIT?
REALLY?
IS THAT TRUE, GRANNY?
MY...
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
PEKO, DO YOU BELIEVE IN HEROES?


THE INVINCIBLE UPHOLDER OF JUSTICE ...
THAT'S KID STUFF
WHO'S THAT GUY?!
I COME FROM PLANET PING PONG !
I WOULDN'T WANT TO SACRIFICE ANYTHING FOR PING PONG .
EVERYTHING'S GETTING MORE AND MORE COMPLICATED.
ALL KIDS SAY THE SAME THING..
SMILE
GRANNY ...
PONG

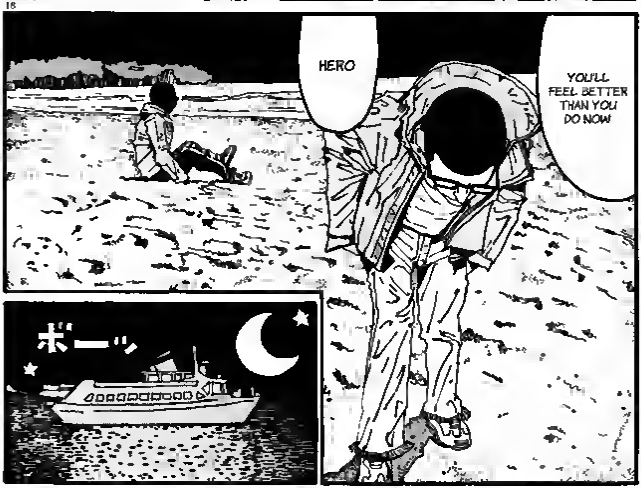

BOZO
OOH !!
IRON?
IT'S ALREADY THE END...
I'M ABANDONING EVERYTHING...
AND I'M GOING FAR AWAY
DOWN TO THE VERY BOTTOM
WHERE NOBODY ELSE IS...


SHHH...
HMMM
HM...
AH?!
WHOA!

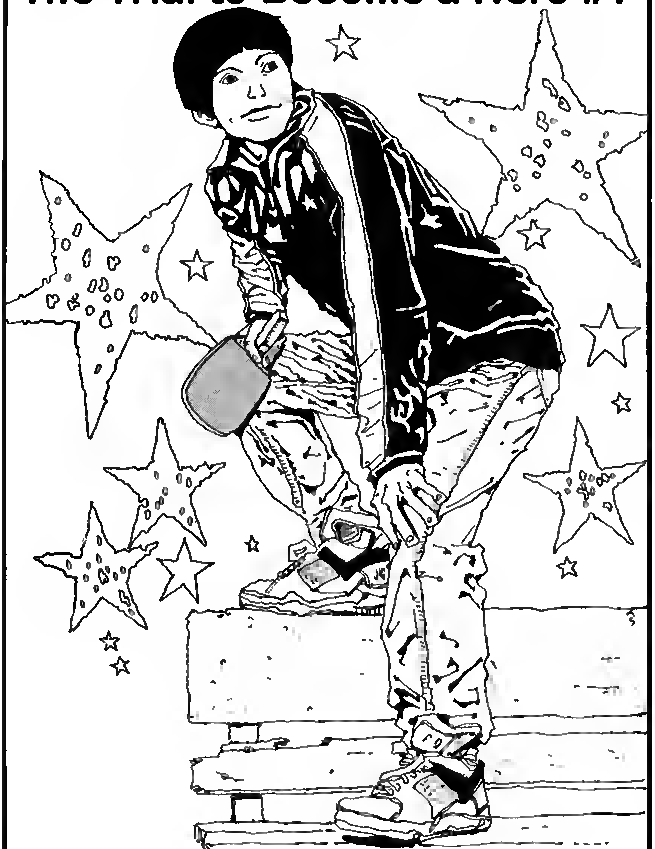
NEVER TRY THAT AGAIN!
PAPUA ?!
17
YOU DIDN'T EVEN MAKE IT OUT TO HIGH SEAS
DUMBASS, YOU ALMOST DROWNED IN THE SHALLOWS I'M THE ONE WHO SAVED YOU, THAT'S ALL.
OH..
OR ELSE I'LL KILL YOU
NOT EVEN TO THE HIGH SEAS.
OK THEN
OH..

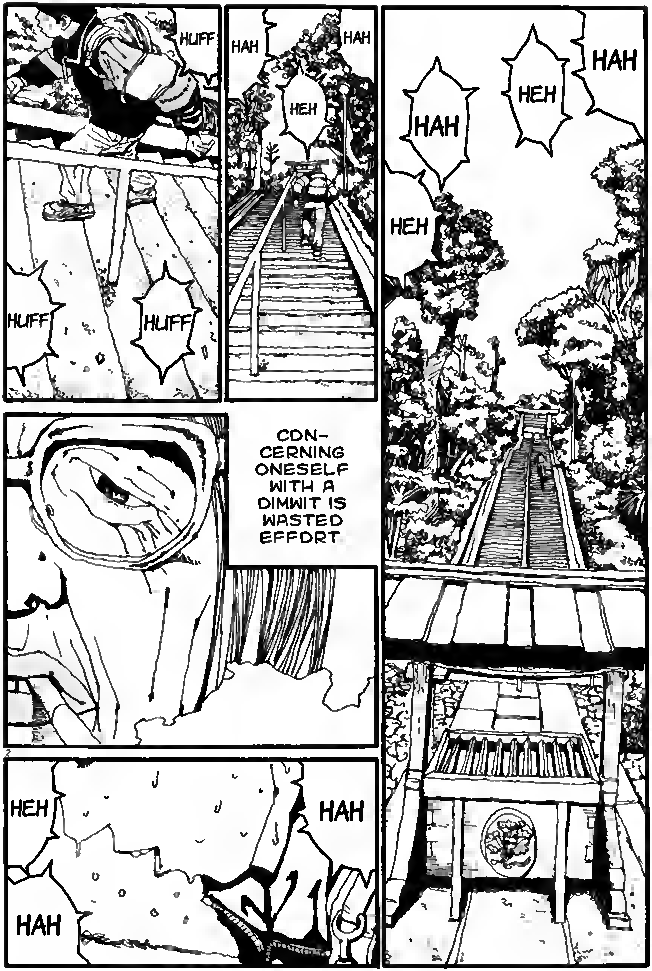

SWING YOUR RACKET TILL YOU'RE SHITTING BLOOD!
RUN TILL YOU'RE COUGHING UP BLOOD!
KEEP PLAYING PING PONG!
STEP

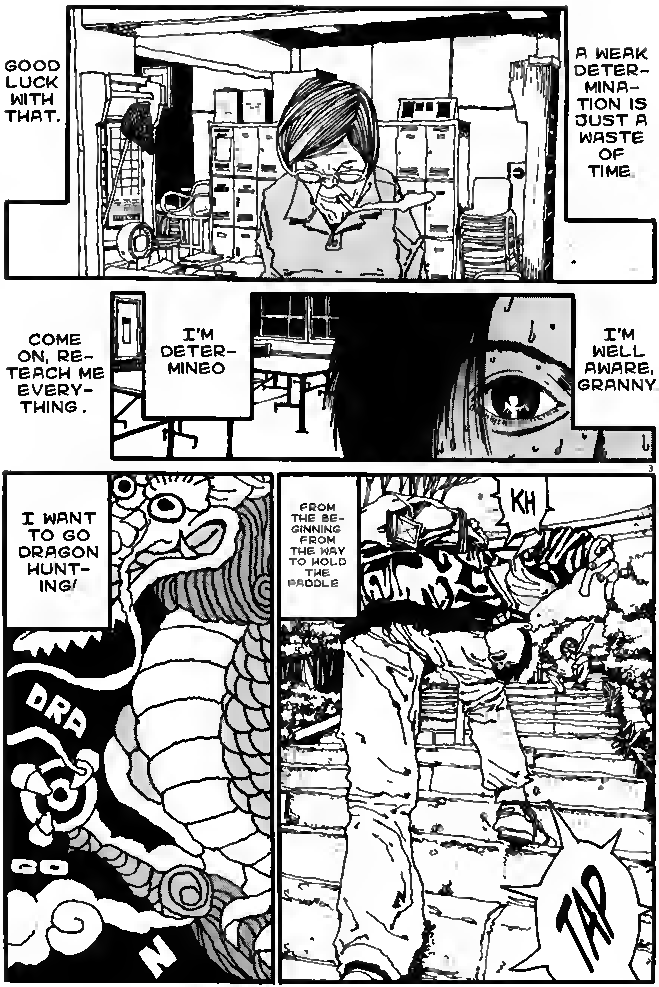
18


HERO
YOU'LL FEEL BETTER THAN YOU DO NOW
ボーッ

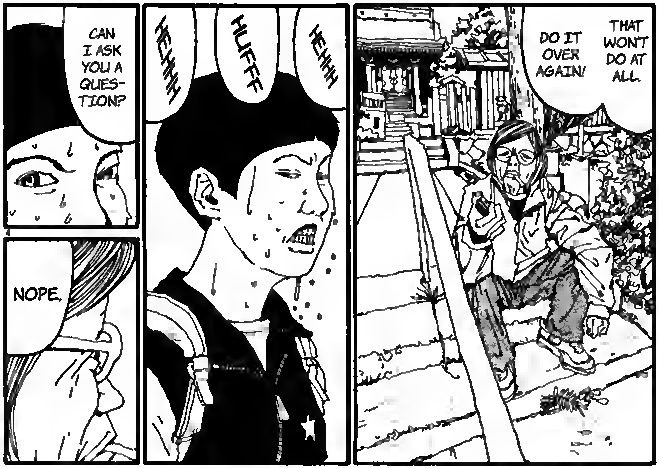
Chapter 30
The Trial to Become a Hero #1



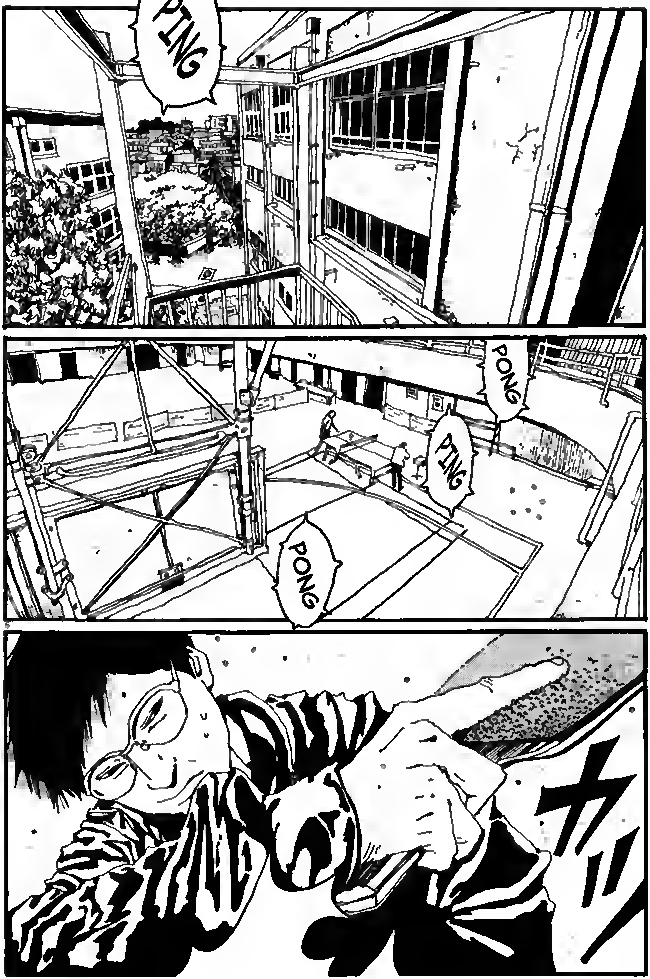

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HAH
HAH
HEH
HAH
HEH
HAH
HEH
CON-
CERNING
ONESELF
WITH A
DIMWIT IS
WASTED
EFFORT
HEH
HAH
HAH


GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
A WEAK DETER-MINA-TION IS JUST A WASTE OF TIME.
COME ON, RE-TEACH ME EVERY-THING.
I'M DETER-MINED
I'M WELL AWARE, GRANNY.
I WANT TO GO DRAGON HUNT-ING!
FROM THE BE-GINNING FROM THE WAY TO HOLD THE PADDLE
KH
TAP

NNGAH!
CLICK
TAMURA
THUMP

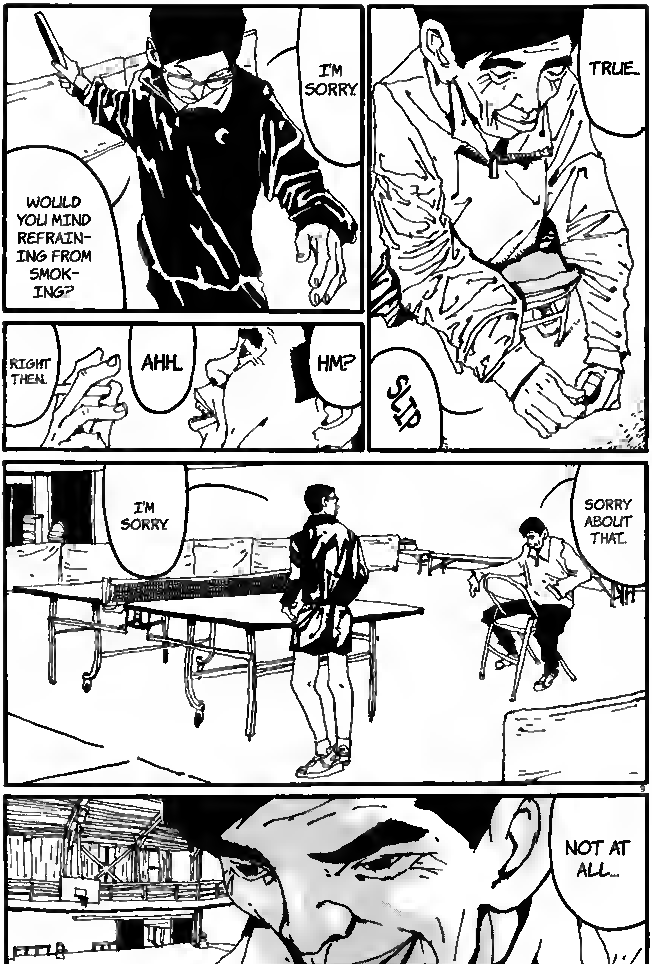

CAN I ASK YOU A QUES-TION?
NOPE.
HEHHH
HUFFF
HEHHH
DO IT OVER AGAIN!
THAT WON'T DO AT ALL.

I'VE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT THIS FOR TWO WEEKS!!
DAMMIT, WHEN ARE YOU GONNA LET ME USE MY PADDLE AGAIN?!!
U.U.P.
SHUT UP! BE QUIET! CAN IT! OBEY OR GET HIT!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!
I WANNA GET MY REFLEXES BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
YOU'LL CONTINUE FOR YOUR ENTIRE LIFE SO LONG AS YOU DON'T TOP 3 MINUTES.
5
GET MOVING
GO ON. REDO IT.

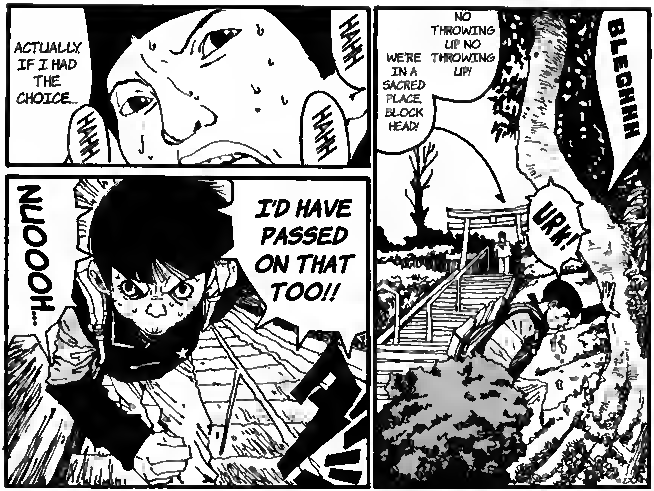

PING
PONG
PING
PONG
ナリ

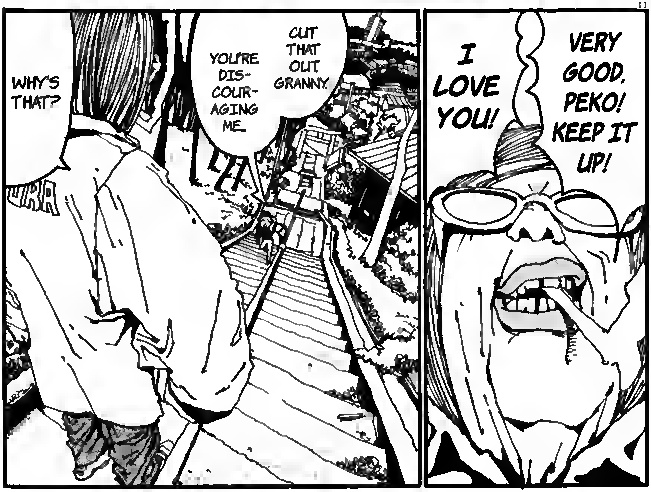
PONG
PONG
SQUEAK
WHAM
!?
I'M THE ONE WHO CAN'T GO ON
KEEP IN MIND THAT I'M IN MY 60'S
卓球部
I CAN KEEP GOING
WE'RE TAKING A BREAK

A CERTAIN SAKUMA FROM KAIO HAS RESIGNED FROM HIS CLUB
I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT.
SQUEAK
YES.
HE'S YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND, ISN'T HE?
WOOSH
HE WOULD HAVE TO RECOGNIZE HIS LIMITS AS A PLAYER SOONER OR LATER.
HMM?
DO YOU FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR IT?
HMM.

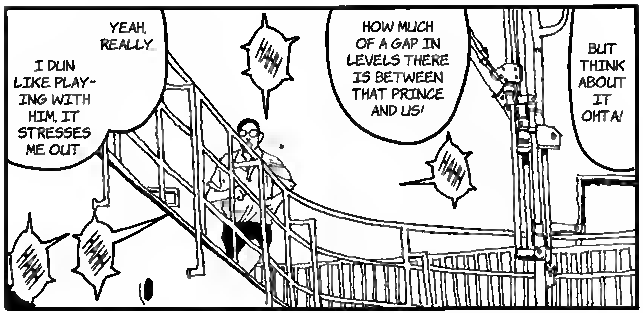

I'M SORRY
WOULD YOU MIND REFRAINING FROM SMOKING?
TRUE.
SLIP
RIGHT THEN.
AHH.
HM?
I'M SORRY
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
NOT AT ALL...

YOU SOME KINDA TURTLE OR SOMETHING?
WHAT ARE YOU DRAGGING YOUR FEET FOR, DUMBASS?!
RUN UP HERE AND HOLD ME IN YOUR ARMS!
C'MON, IMAGINE I'M YOUR SWEETHEART...
FEH!
FEH!
FEH!
FEH!
FEH!
HRRG...


ACTUALLY IF I HAD THE CHOICE...
HMM
HMM
HMM
NO THROWING UP NO THROWING UP!
WE'RE IN A SACRED PLACE, BLOCK HEAD!
BLECHHH
URK!
I'D HAVE PASSED ON THAT TOO!!
NUOOH...

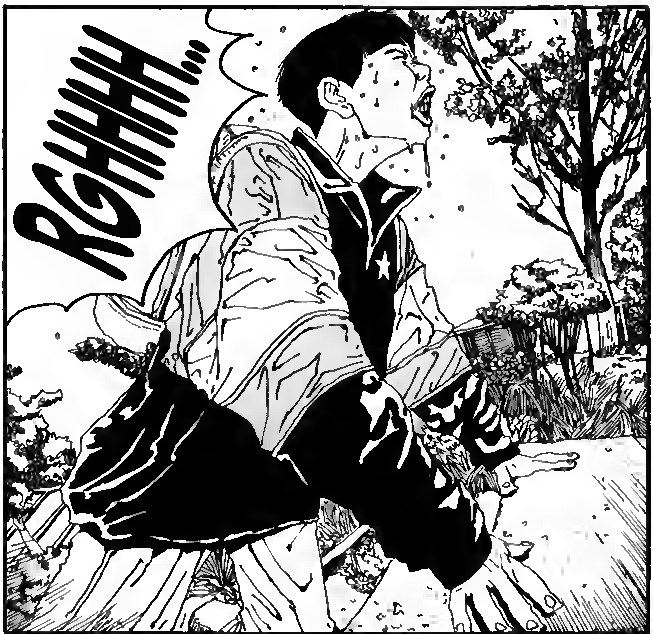

WHY'S THAT?
YOU'RE DIS-COUR-AGING ME...
CUT THAT OUT GRANNY
I LOVE YOU!
VERY GOOD, PEKO! KEEP IT UP!

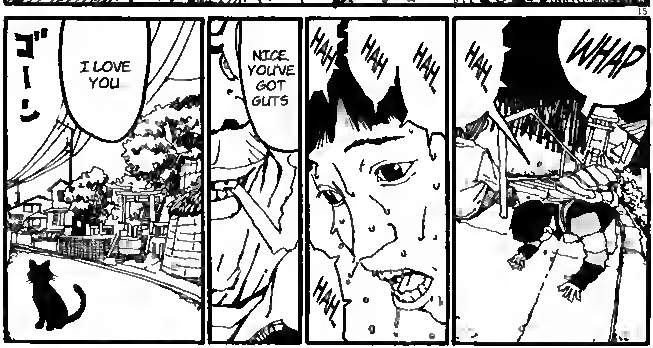
BEAT WALDNER for real
I HAVE NO IDEA DUDES.
YEAH AND YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN HERE!
KAIO'S GONNA ROPE TSUKI-MOTO IN.
BUT EVERY-BODY'S TALKING ABOUT IT
HEY NOW. WATCH YOUR MOUTH.
THINGS WILL BE BETTER THEN.
PEACE WILL RETURN.
IF TSUKI-MOTO LEAVES. WHAT HAP-PENS TO US?
BUT STILL.
RIGHT AND I DUNNO ANY-THING

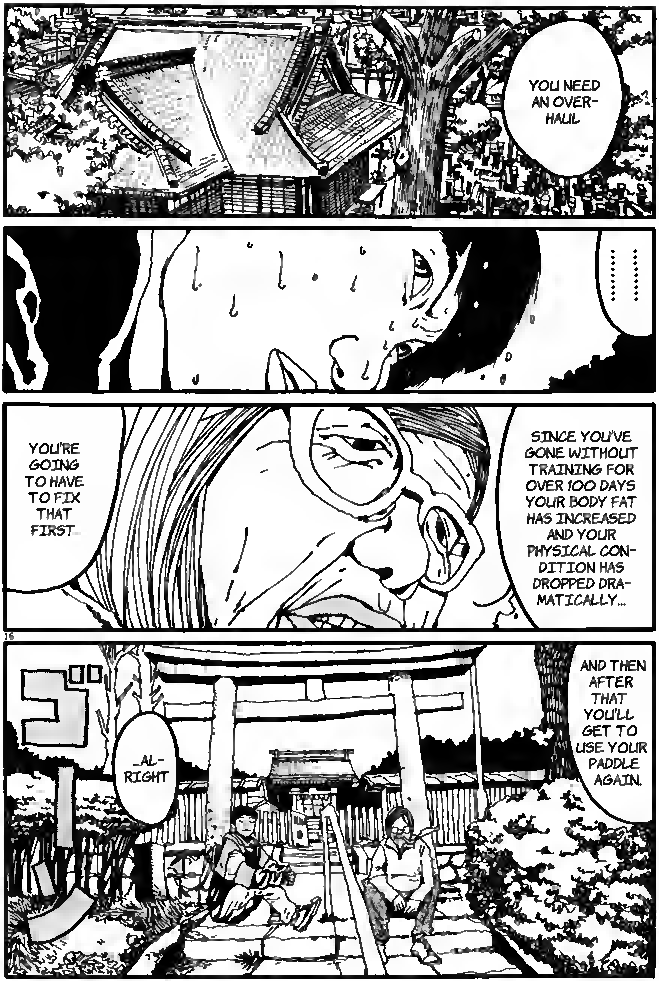

BUT THINK ABOUT IT OHTA!
HOW MUCH OF A GAP IN LEVELS THERE IS BETWEEN THAT PRINCE AND US!
YEAH, REALLY.
I DUN LIKE PLAY-ING WITH HIM, IT STRESSES ME OUT

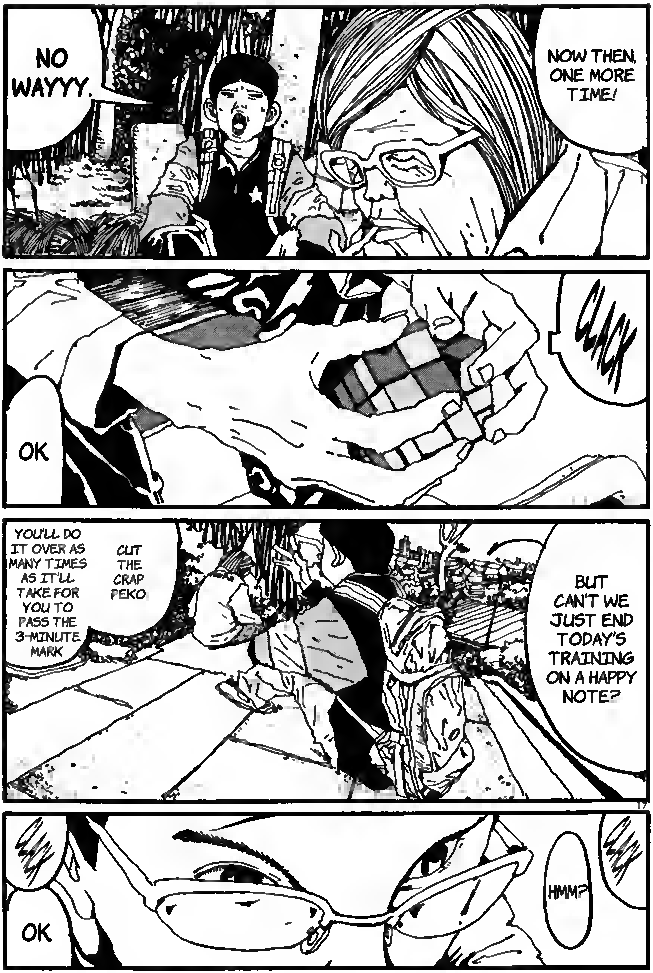
ANYWAY, HE'S NOT NORMAL.
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO STAY WITH US
PLUS HE'S TOO PROUD THAT PISSES ME OFF.
DEFINITELY
KATASE
HMM..
HHH
HHH

HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
THAT'S IT YOU'RE ALMOST THERE!
OHHHH...
YOU CAN DO IT!
HAHH
HEEEH
HAAAH
ONE MORE STEP DAR-LING
14
UHHH
NNN

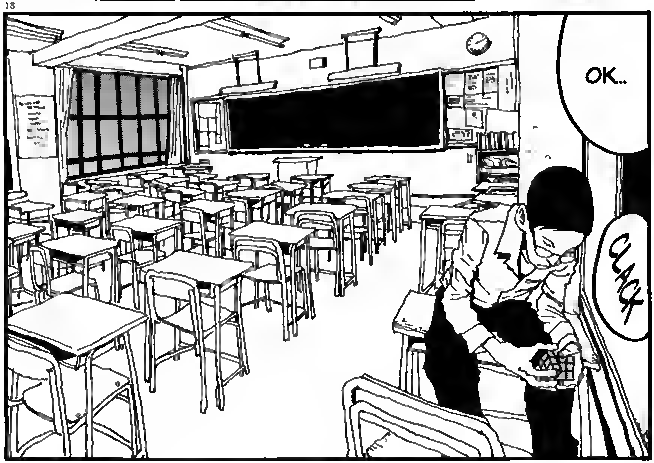

RGHHH...


WHAP
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
NICE. YOU'VE GOT GUTS
I LOVE YOU
ゴーン

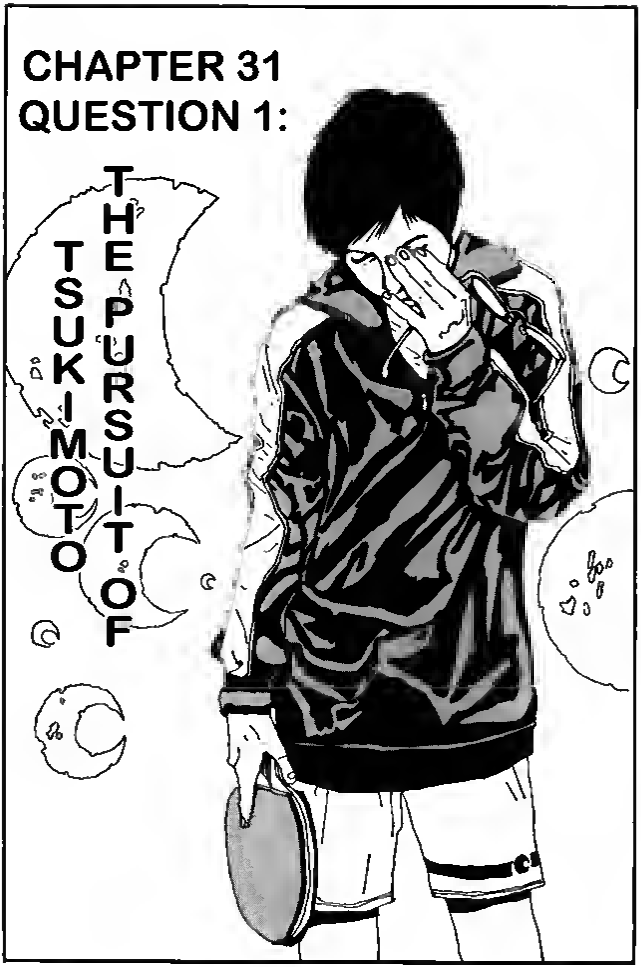

YOU NEED AN OVER-HAUL
.....
SINCE YOU'VE GONE WITHOUT TRAINING FOR OVER 100 DAYS YOUR BODY FAT HAS INCREASED AND YOUR PHYSICAL CONDITION HAS DROPPED DRAMATICALLY...
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIX THAT FIRST
AND THEN AFTER THAT YOU'LL GET TO USE YOUR PADDLE AGAIN.
..AL-RIGHT


NO WAYYY.
NOW THEN, ONE MORE TIME!
CLICK
OK
YOU'LL DO IT OVER AS MANY TIMES AS IT'LL TAKE FOR YOU TO PASS THE 3-MINUTE MARK
CUT THE CRAP PEKO
BUT CAN'T WE JUST END TODAY'S TRAINING ON A HAPPY NOTE?
HMM?
OK

DON'T MAKE ME KICK YOUR SORRY ASS_
ENOUGH I'VE ALREADY HEARD THAT ONE! GET A MOVE ON ALREADY!
I CAN'T GO ON! I'M GONNA DIE!


OK..
CLACK

CHAPTER 31
QUESTION 1:

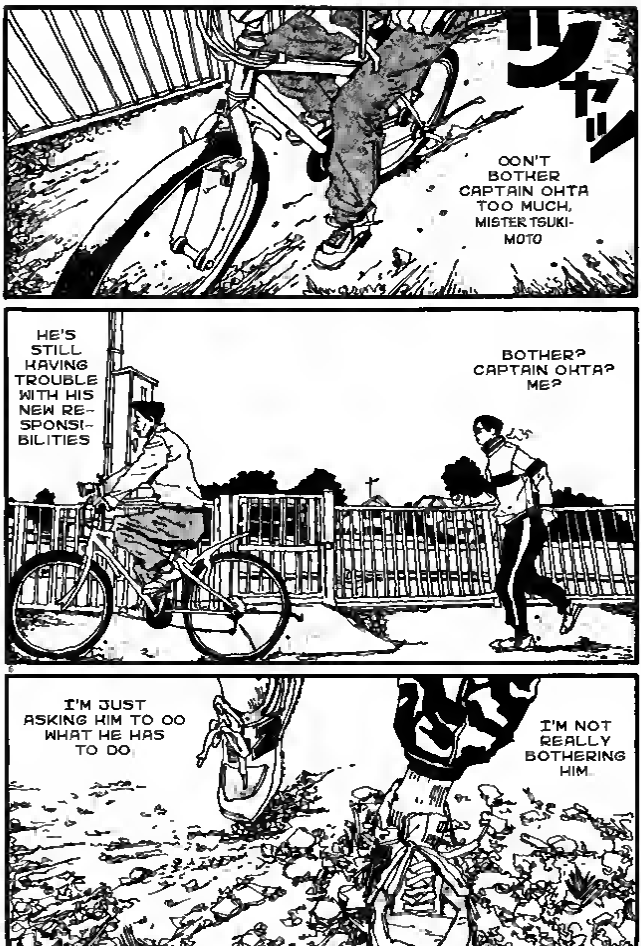


THERE'S TOO MANY OF US
OUR CLUB DOESNT HAVE ENOUGH TABLES AS IT IS
OUR CLUB HAS ALWAYS RECRUITED BEGINNERS
WELL, JUST CAUSE...
WHY?
BUT RECRUITING ONLY EXPERIENCED PLAYERS ISNT HOW THINGS WORK 'ROUND HERE!
STEP
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M ASKING FOR
BESIDES, IF YOU HAD IT YOUR WAY WE WOULDN'T RECRUIT ANYBODY AT ALL.

!?
TAKA-MURA..
DO YOU KNOW WHO THE HELL YOU'RE TALKING TO?!
.....
TO OLD AGE.
..WATCH YOUR BACK OR ELSE YOU MIGHT NOT MAKE IT..
IT'D BE BETTER FOR OUR TRAINING AND IT'LL GIVE US A CHANCE TO RAISE OUR TEAM'S LEVEL.
SQUEAK
3
YOU IRRI-TATE THE HELL OUT OF ME..!!
THAT ISN'T THE PROBLEM HERE!
AM I WRONG ?

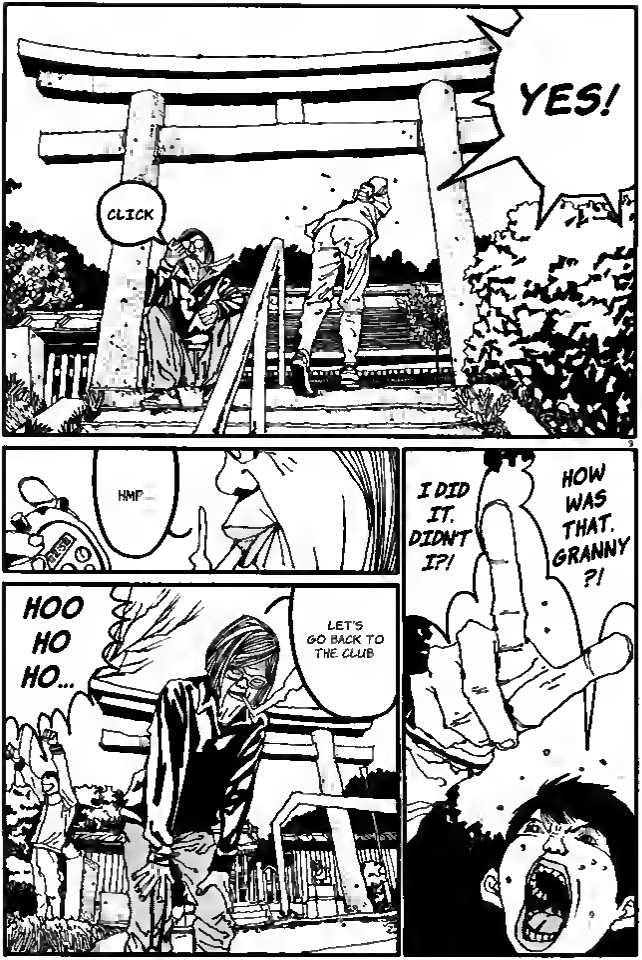
I ASKED YOU TO GET HARDER ONES THAT DON'T BEND OUT OF SHAPE
WHAT IS IT NOW?
AND THEN THERE'S THESE POOR QUALITY BALLS_
YOU TOLD ME THE SAME THING LAST WEEK
YEAH. WE ORDERED THEM.
OHH_ THAT -
CRACK
HELLO EVERY BODY IS EVERYONE HERE?
SLIDE
HEY
TSUKIMOTOOO...

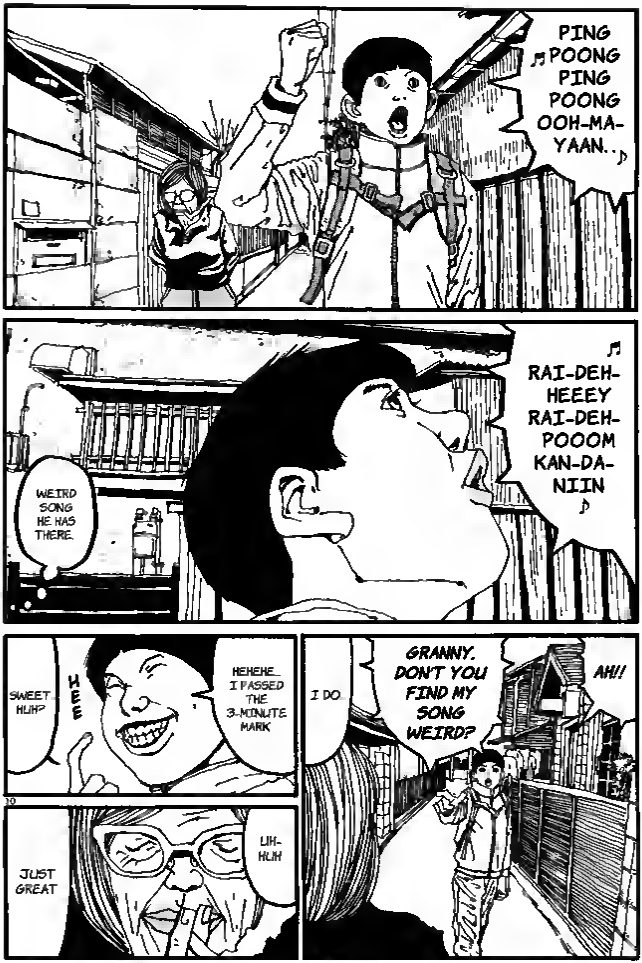
LET'S RUN
COME HERE, MR. TSUKIMOTO
FWOO
OK
HEH
RUN YOUR-SELVES TO DEATH! NEVER COME BACK, PING PONG FREAK DUO!
PONG


リャリ
DON'T BOTHER CAPTAIN OHTA TOO MUCH, MISTER TSUKIMOTO
HE'S STILL HAVING TROUBLE WITH HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES
BOTHER? CAPTAIN OHTA? ME?
I'M JUST ASKING HIM TO DO WHAT HE HAS TO DO.
I'M NOT REALLY BOTHERING HIM.

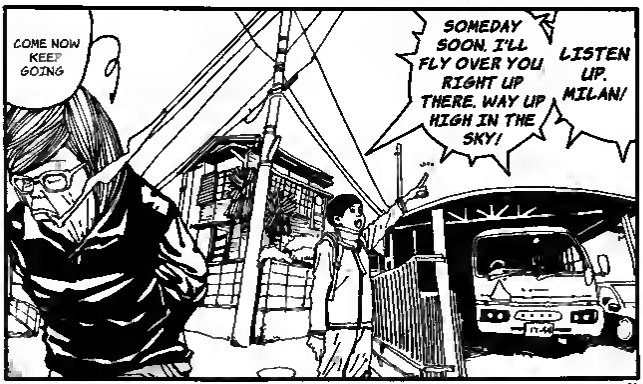
NO
I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT I SEEM SELFISH TO THEM
VERY FEW PEOPLE FIND IT TO BE THAT SIMPLE
IF WE WANT TO WIN, IT'S THE ONLY WAY
...

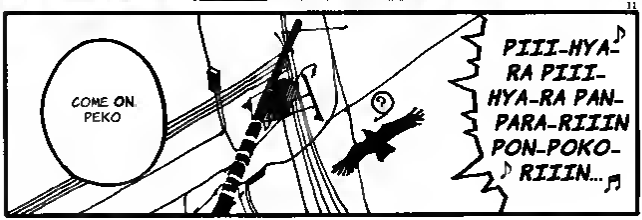
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WHAP
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

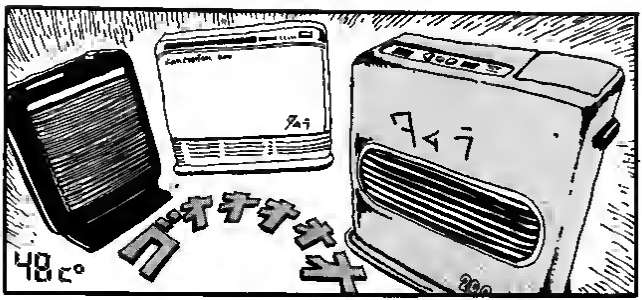

YES!
CLICK
HMP...
I DID IT. DIDN'T I?!
HOW WAS THAT, GRANNY?!
HOO HO HO...
LET'S GO BACK TO THE CLUB


PING ♬POONG PING POONG OOH-MA-YAAN..♪
♬ RAI-DEH-HEEEY RAI-DEH-POOOM KAN-DA-NIIN ♪
WEIRD SONG HE HAS THERE.
AH!!
GRANNY, DON'T YOU FIND MY SONG WEIRD?
I DO
HEHEHE.. I PASSED THE 3-MINUTE MARK
HEE
SWEET HUH?
LIH-HUH
JUST GREAT

I GUESS SO
WE'RE THE PERFECT COUPLE!
GYAHAHA.. I LOVE YOU, GRANNY !!


COME NOW KEEP GOING
SOMEDAY SOON, I'LL FLY OVER YOU RIGHT UP THERE, WAY UP HIGH IN THE SKY!
LISTEN UP, MILAN!


COME ON, PEKO
PIII-HYA-RA PIII-HYA-RA PAN-PARA-RIIIN PON-POKO-RIIIN...


48c°
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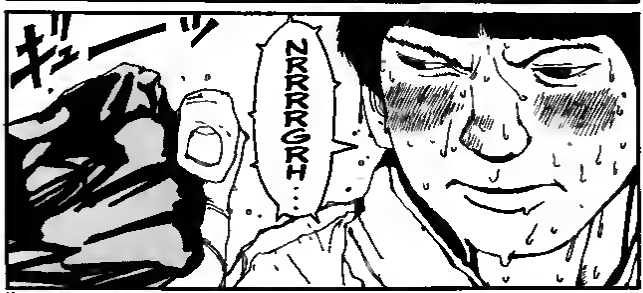
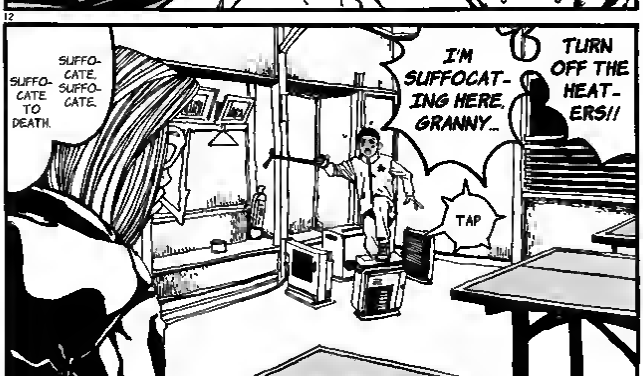

ギュ
NRRRRGRH...

12


SUFFO-CATE TO DEATH.
SUFFO-CATE. SUFFO-CATE.
I'M SUFFOCAT-ING HERE, GRANNY...
TURN OFF THE HEAT-ERS!!
TAP

AL-RIGHT
IF HE'S STILL GOT THE STRENGTH TO BITCH THEN NO WORRIES
NO PROBLEMS JUST YET
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT CHUBBY-
HE'S GONNA FAINT-
THAT'S NOT GOOD GRANNY
GE-
GODDAM-MIT- WHEN DO I-
UHLLL...
PA
DD
TO
GET
USE
MY
SO HOT!

THE NEXT DAY!
THINK YOU'RE MAN ENOUGH TO HIT MY SUPERSONIC PITCH?
NO SWEAT
HYAH!

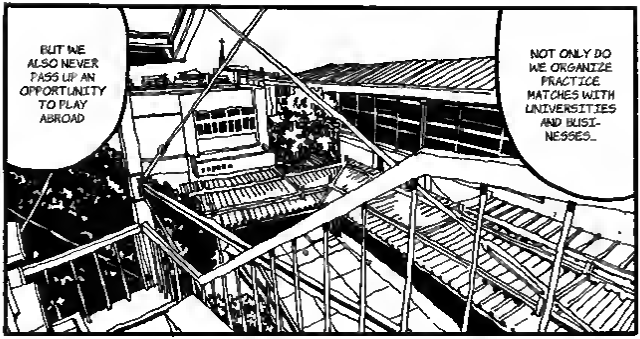
AH...
BACK HOME. BACK HOME. HURRY UP!
UGH!
PONG
SQUEAK
15

GIVE US BACK THE BALL!!
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT PAL?
OH… UH… THIS IS JUST …
A LITTLE WARM UP…
BAH!
ALRIGHT LET'S DO SOME CALISTHENICS! GET IN A CIRCLE!
CLUTCH

PING
BAH...
トッ!...
!?
HUH?
HEY OHTA LOOK...
OH...
AH...
K-BASE
CLUTCH
BELIEVE IT OR NOT THERE ARE SOME FISH THAT ACTUALLY PREFER DIRTY WATER AND LIVE IN IT TSUKIMOTO...

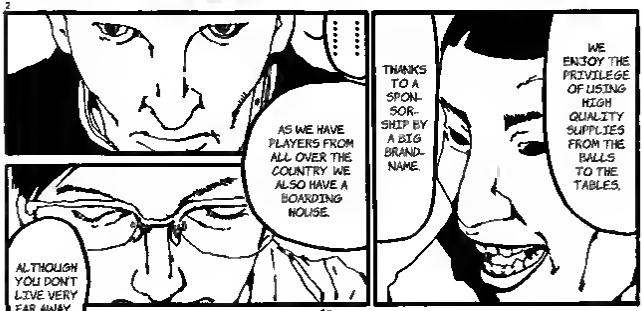
I'M FU-JIMURA. THE COACH AT KAIO HIGH. NICE TO MEET YOU!
F300
THEY'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT AND DON'T WANT TO CHANGE...
.....
SIIIGH
LIKE-WISE.

CHAPTER 32: MY COACH


BUT WE ALSO NEVER PASS UP AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY ABROAD
NOT ONLY DO WE ORGANIZE PRACTICE MATCHES WITH UNIVERSITIES AND BUSINESSES...

THE SCHOOL HAS PUT UP BENCHES FOR WEIGHT TRAINING A POOL, A SAUNA AND AN AUDIO-VISUAL ROOM ALL AT THE CLUB'S DISPOSAL

2


AS WE HAVE PLAYERS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WE ALSO HAVE A BOARDING HOUSE.
ALTHOUGH YOU DON'T LIVE VERY FAR AWAY...
THANKS TO A SPONSORSHIP BY A BIG BRAND NAME.
WE ENJOY THE PRIVILEGE OF USING HIGH QUALITY SUPPLIES FROM THE BALLS TO THE TABLES.

SURE.
HOLD ON.

I UNDERSTAND THAT KAIO IS AN EXCEPTIONAL SCHOOL. BUT
WHAT IS IT?
BUT?

IF YOU DO CHANGE SCHOOLS WE'LL HAVE TO TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR PARENTS, TOO
WE DON'T EXPECT AN IMMEDIATE ANSWER. CERTAINLY
I'M A LITTLE PUT OUT IN FINDING ALL THIS OUT SO SUDDENLY

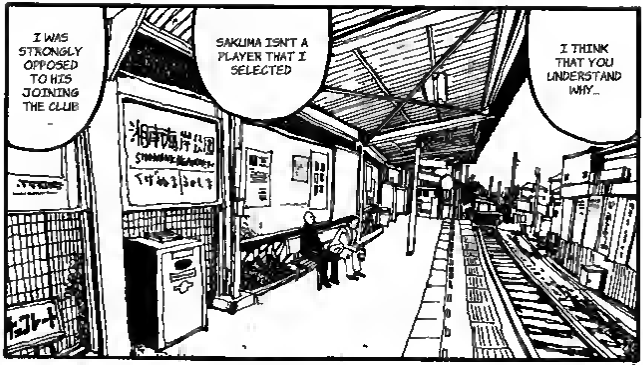
COME TO KAIO TSUKIMOTO.
WE'VE ONLY COME HERE TODAY TO PRESENT OUR CLUB TO YOU...
THESE POOR CONDITIONS WILL END UP KILLING YOUR TALENT
HE MOST CERTAINLY IS
YES...
IS MR. KOIZUMI AWARE THAT...?
AHEM!
HEY NOW

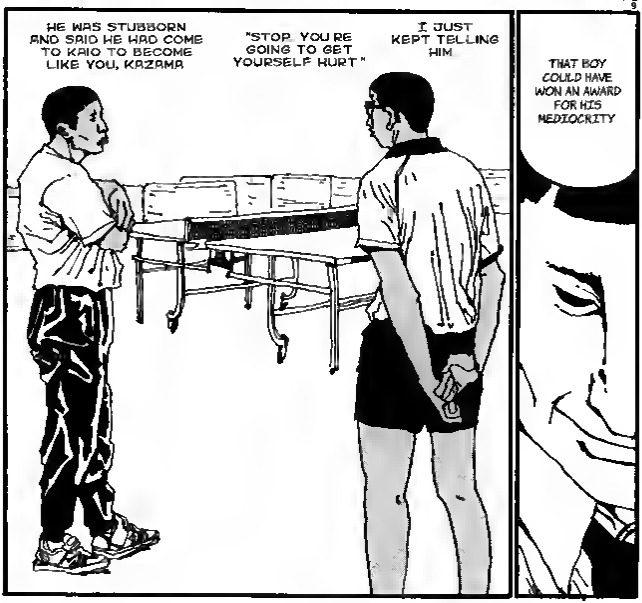
IT'S A "VERY CLEVER IDEA" FOR YOUR FUTURE. HE SAYS...
HE AGREES
YOU KNOW OF HIM?
I JUST CAN'T GET OVER THAT
MR KOIZUMI BEING A COACH HERE. THOUGH.
MY FUTURE...
WHO'S THAT?
UM... I...
?
MY HERO
HE WAS

GO AHEAD TSUKIMOTO
YES?
THAT IS I…
YES…
ガアアアア

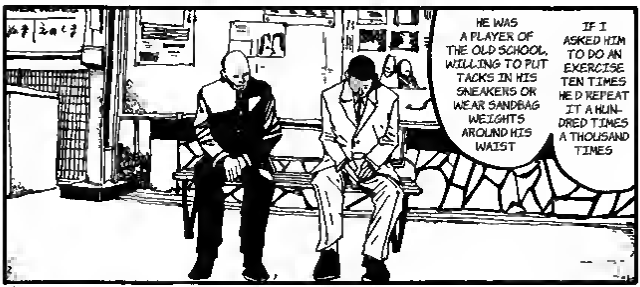
BEEP
I APOLOGIZE.
KATHUNK
HERE.
NO BIG DEAL.
I MADE YOU WASTE YOUR TIME.

HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE WANTS TO COME WITH US
GIVE IT UP
I'LL TRY TO CONVINCE HIM AGAIN TOMRROW
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE NAME KAIJO ALONE WAS ENOUGH TO RECRUIT PLAYERS WHEREAS NOW...
BUT...
.....
A PLAYER LIKE SAKUMA IS PRECIOUS

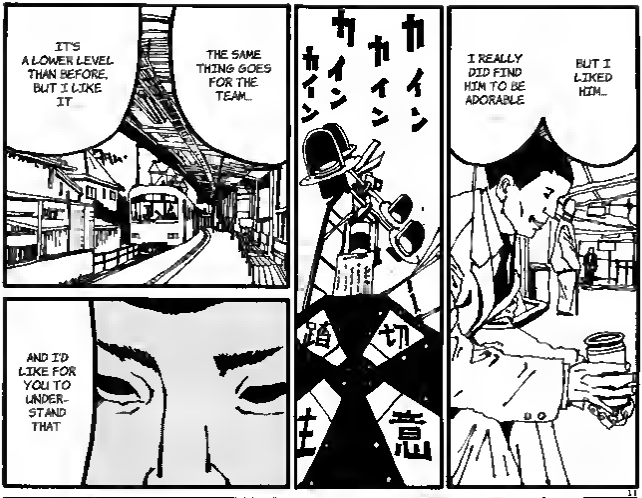

I WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO HIS JOINING THE CLUB
SAKUMA ISN'T A PLAYER THAT I SELECTED
I THINK THAT YOU UNDERSTAND WHY...


HE WAS STUBBORN AND SAID HE HAD COME TO KAIO TO BECOME LIKE YOU, KAZAMA
"STOP. YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOURSELF HURT."
I JUST KEPT TELLING HIM
THAT BOY COULD HAVE WON AN AWARD FOR HIS MEDIOCRITY

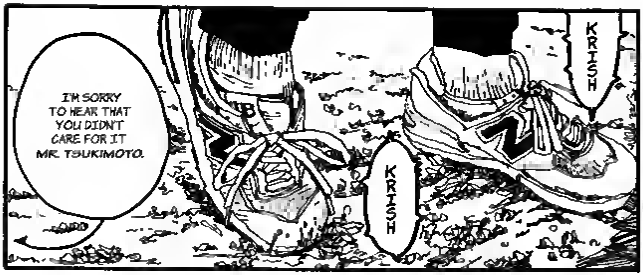
IN THE END I LET HIM IN, THINKING THAT I COULD USE HIM AS MANAGER.
BUT WITH HIM...
果汁グミ

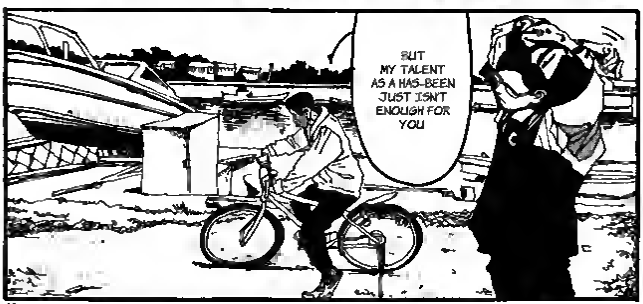

HE WAS A PLAYER OF THE OLD SCHOOL, WILLING TO PUT TACKS IN HIS SNEAKERS OR WEAR SANDBAG WEIGHTS AROUND HIS WAIST
IF I ASKED HIM TO DO AN EXERCISE TEN TIMES HE'D REPEAT IT A HUNDRED TIMES A THOUSAND TIMES

SAKUMA HAS HANDICAPS PREVENTING HIM FROM REACHING YOUR LEVEL.
THEN AGAIN... TABLE TENNIS IS A SPORT THAT DEMANDS A LOT OF TALENT.

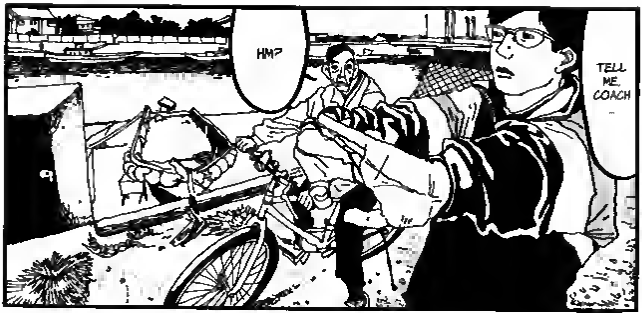

I REALLY DID FIND HIM TO BE ADORABLE
BUT I LIKED HIM...
カイン カイン カイン カイン
頭 切 土 意
IT'S A LOWER LEVEL THAN BEFORE, BUT I LIKE IT
THE SAME THING GOES FOR THE TEAM...
AND I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO UNDER-STAND THAT

THUMP
SIIIGH
JR
Me
ガ ガ ガ


I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT YOU DIDN'T CARE FOR IT MR. TSUKIMOTO.
KRTSH
KRTSH

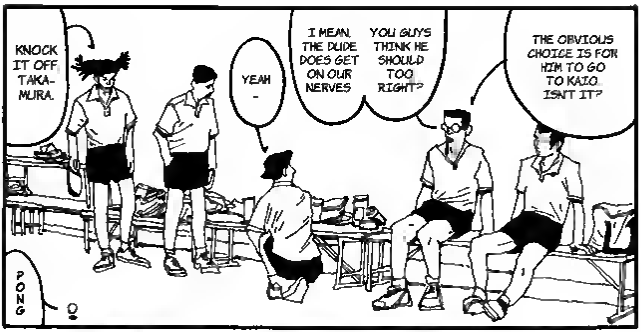

BUT MY TALENT AS A HAS-BEEN JUST ISN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU

AND MORE IMPORTANT STILL, YOU DON'T SEEM ALRIGHT BEING HERE AND I FELT BAD ABOUT THAT.
OVER THERE YOU WOULD BE IN AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT TO TRAIN.


HM?
TELL ME, COACH

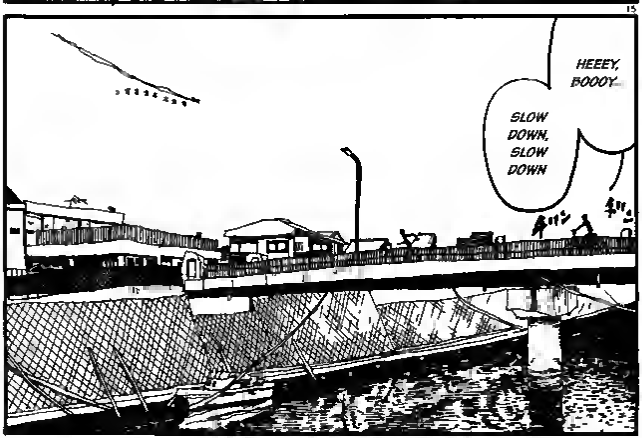
YOU WOULDN'T CARE EITHER WAY WOULD YOU?
I DON'T KNOW BUT...
AND YOU THINK THEY WOULD ACCEPT ME?
IT WAS BECAUSE OF ME THAT SAKUMA RESIGNED FROM THEIR CLUB
RIGHT
I HAVE MY UPS AND DOWNS JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE.
I'M A HUMAN BEING TOO
HAAAH

AH!
WHOA THERE
OFF I GO
YOU'LL WEAR YOURSELF OUT MISTER
NOT SO FAST... HEEEY
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HE'S A DIFFICULT CHILD
GIDDY UP
MY OH MY
BAH!


KNOCK IT OFF TAKAMURA.
PONG
YEAH
I MEAN, THE DUDE DOES GET ON OUR NERVES
YOU GUYS THINK HE SHOULD TOO RIGHT?
THE OBVIOUS CHOICE IS FOR HIM TO GO TO KAIO ISN'T IT?

QUIT SAYING THAT

15


HEEEY, BOOOY
SLOW DOWN, SLOW DOWN

NOW THEN...
BEEP
MR PEKO!
MM.

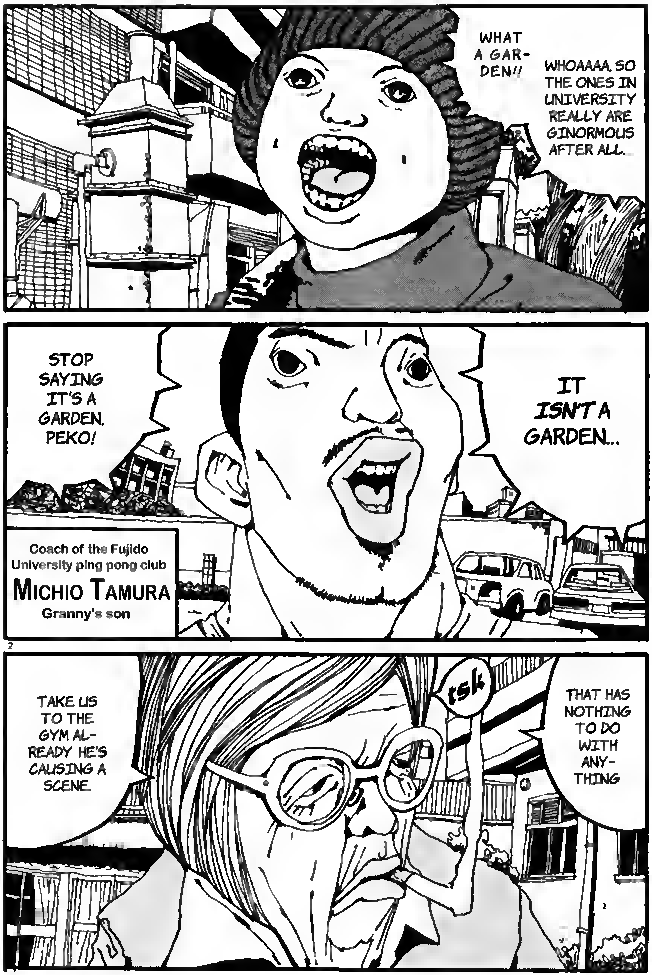
WATER, WATER, WATER, WATER...
WA-
YOU ALIVE, MR. PEKO? HERE, HAVE SOME WATER
GIMME, GIMME...
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO ASK YOU...
HELLO MICHIO? IT'S ME... RIGHT
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HELPING ME SHAPE HIM UP? RIGHT... RIGHT...
I'VE GOT AN INTERESTING PLAYER ON MY HANDS AT THE MOMENT... RIGHT

HEY MICHIO, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?! HEY..
WHAT?!
PHEWW
GLUB
YES, DRAGON, THAT'S HIM..
THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'S THIS KAZAMA CHARACTER FROM KAIO KNOW THE ONE?
HUH?!
I WANT TO SHAPE UP THIS KID TO TAKE HIM DOWN.

18

HEL-LOOO-OOO, MICHIO?!
NO THANKS
I WANT SOME!
DON'T HANG UP. HEY. HOLD ON.. MICHIO!

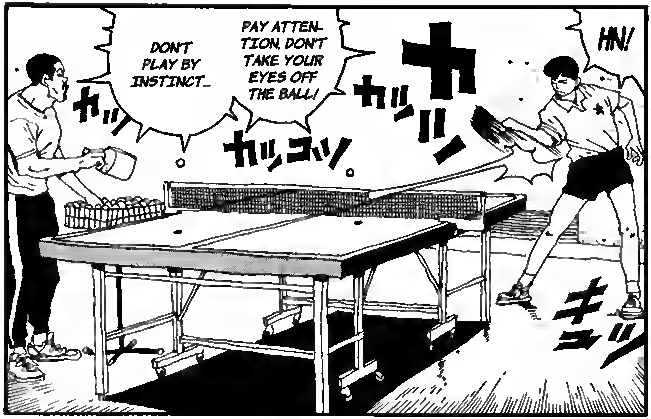
Chapter 33
A Wish Upon a Star, Cont'd

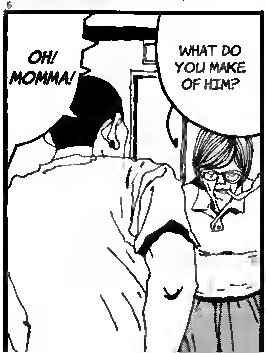

WHAT A GAR-DEN!!
WHOAAAA SO THE ONES IN UNIVERSITY REALLY ARE GINORMOUS AFTER ALL.
STOP SAYING IT'S A GARDEN, PEKO!
IT ISN'T A GARDEN...
Coach of the Fujido University ping pong club
MICHIO TAMURA
Granny's son
2
TAKE US TO THE GYM AL-READY HE'S CAUSING A SCENE.
tsk
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY-THING
2

UGH!
NO. I'D SAY IT'S A GARDEN.
WAIT IT IS A GARDEN! OR MAYBE A COURT-YARD..?
WHOA! CAMPUS GIRLS! THEY'VE GOT CAMPUS GIRLS HERE, GRANNY! YOOO..
THIS MEANS
AND SO.
Squeak

オーゴッ
PLEASE TREAT HIM WELL!
HOSHINO WILL BE TRAINING WITH US AS OF TODAY
タムラ
PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.
YUTAKA HOSHINO NICKNAMED PEKO OFFENSE PLAYER. BORN IN THE YEAR OF THE GOAT BLOOD TYPE O. 16 YEARS OLD

オーエッ
PING
PONG
PING
PONG
PING
3 MIN-UTES LEFT.
KHH...
キュッ
カッ
YOU'RE TOO SLOW PEKO! C'MON C'MON C'MON...
YOU IDIOT!
コッ
カッ
SO FAST!
SO...
カッ





190 Note Peko's doing an impression of Japanese actor/comedian Ichiro Zaitsu

QUIT YOUR BITCH-ING
I DON'T COACH KIDS!
EASIER SAID THAN DONE...
THE WORST IS HIS BACK-HAND
JUST LIKE BEFORE.
FIX HIM RIGHT UP!
I'LL GIVE YOU SIX MONTHS.
SHH
WHA?
REFUSE AND YOU'RE NO LONGER MY SON.

カーン
ﾊｱﾊｱ
PUT YOUR WHOLE BODY INTO IT!!
HEY. WATCH YOUR FORM.
ﾊｱﾊｱ
ﾊｱﾊｱ
ﾊｱﾊｱ
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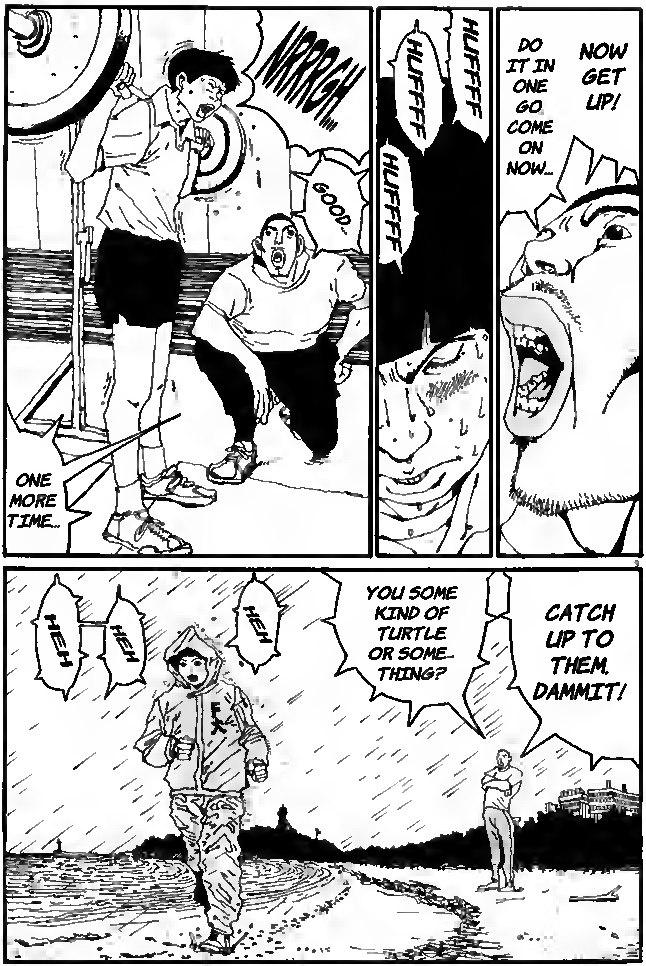
QUIT BEING A DEAD WEIGHT FOR THE TEAM!
ﾊｱﾊｱ
ﾊｱﾊｱ
YOU'RE THE ONE HOLD-ING THEM BACK, PEKO!


NRRGH...
GOOD.
ONE MORE TIME...
HUFFFF
HUFFFF
HUFFFF
NOW GET UP!
DO IT IN ONE GO. COME ON NOW...
CATCH UP TO THEM. DAMMIT!
YOU SOME KIND OF TURTLE OR SOME-THING?
HEH
HEH
HEH

Get in line, please!
WHAT A CAFETERIA!!
WHOAAAA, SO THE ONES IN UNIVERSITY REALLY ARE HUMONGOUS, HUH.

YOU'RE ALWAYS OVER HERE THESE DAYS EVERYTHING WORKING OUT WITH YOUR SCHOOL?
ALRIGHT ALREADY PEKO
AND YOU GUYS GET A SELECTION TO CHOOSE FROM TOO THAT IS SO COOL!

I SEE.
NO PROB-LEMO, I'VE GOT MY SCHEDULES ALL FIG-URED OUT!

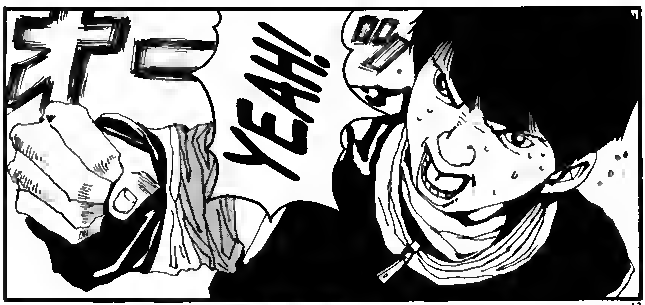
YUP...
OH!
BY THE WAY YOU'RE FROM KATASE HIGH, RIGHT?
THEY'VE GOT THIS DEFENSE PLAYER OVER THERE NAMED TSUKIMOTO
YUP.

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
Triton among the minnows
WHICH IS TO SAY THAT

YUP.
THAT'S RIGHT
HE'S GOT A 50-WIN STREAK
WHAT? IS THIS DUDE GOOD?

CLICK
?
CLICK
CLICK
ACTUALLY MY LITTLE BROTHER PLAYS IN A HIGH SCHOOL CLUB, TOO...
HE'S PRETTY GOOD AT TURNING PEOPLE OFF OF PING PONG
HUH
HE TOLD ME THAT THE DUDE DIDN'T LOOK HUMAN.
.....
ONE TIME HE PLAYED WITH THAT TSUKI-MOTO GUY.
HE GOT SCHOOLED. THOUGH.
CLICK
CLICK
12
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
MY BROTHER SAID IT FELT LIKE PLAYING WITH A CYBORG.

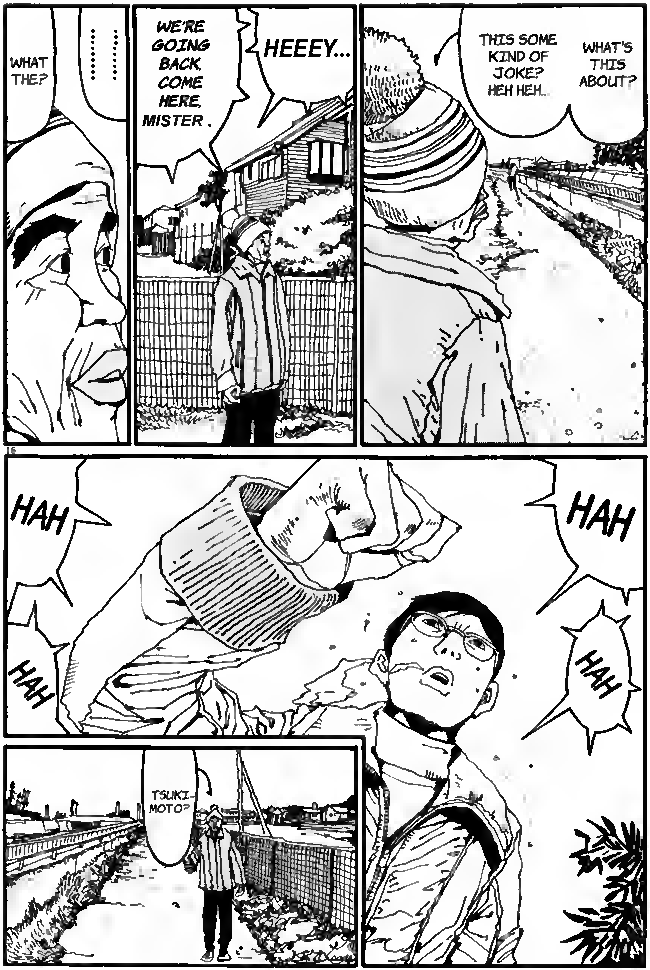
GO FUJIDOOO GO!
YEAH!
GO!
YEAH!
GO!
YEAH!
GO FUJIDOOO GO!


YEAH!!

PEKO'S BACK-HAND..
UHHHH..
I CAN'T FIND ANY SOLU-TIONS..

HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
14
Yes, ALMOST THERE...

Good
CLICK
HUH?
THIS IS A GOOD TIME EVEN FOR THE TRACK AND FIELD CLUB.
OH!! VERY FAST, MR. TSUKI-MOTO.
Where are you going?


WHAT THE?
.....
WE'RE GOING BACK, COME HERE, MISTER.
HEEEY...
THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE? HEH HEH..
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
TSUKIMOTO?

THEY'RE BOTH RUNNING TOWARDS...

THE HARSH TRIALS AND NEW BATTLES AWAITING THEM IN THE NEXT VOLUME!!!